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HH the Amir receiving Anwaar Al Sabah (left) and the pilot (right) with HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister greeting another passenger.

Amir and Crown Prince greet former captives

Freed hostages return to tumultuous welcome

By Fathima Ahmed and Lima Al Khalafawi

SMILES and cheers, doves and flowers and embraces from HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier marked the jubilant return of 29 released hostages on Thursday night.

Thousands of Kuwaitis danced and cheered in the streets, waving flags and honking horns to accord them a tumultuous welcome.

Seven white doves were released into the air and the sound of bagpipe music flowed

as the former hostages walked down the ramp, wearing rose garlands around their necks at the Kuwait International Airport.

The Amir led the welcoming party which included the Crown Prince, ministers and officials from other Gulf states.

The 27 passengers and seven crew members arrived in Kuwait from Algiers at 10.20 pm aboard a special Kuwait Airways plane, which was sent to bring them back.

The hostages were released at 6.00 am last Wednesday morning at Algiers. Two other hostages, Saudi Arabian citizens, were flown to Jeddah in a special executive jet.

Longest

The return of the mostly Kuwaiti passengers aboard the hijacked plane marked the end of the longest hijack drama in history. It began on April 5 when KAC Flight KU 422 from Bangkok to Kuwait was taken over by gunmen while flying over the Arabian Sea and diverted to Iran, landing in Mashhad where some of the hostages were released.

The hijackers forced the plane to fly to Larnaca, Cyprus after failing to land in Beirut. In Cyprus, the ruthless hijackers killed two Kuwaitis — Khalid Ayoub and Abdullah Al Khaled — last week and pressed for the release of 17 terrorists held in Kuwait.

Kuwait refused to accept the hijackers' demands and remained firm on its stand till the end.

The hijack drama took a new turn when the captors released 12 hostages, among them four Kuwaitis, in exchange for fuel and took off for Algiers.

After extensive negotiations in Algeria, the hijackers on Wednesday released the last batch of 31 hostages.

Men and women danced and clapped, children waved flags and sang "God Bless Our Father, Jaber," as the 29 arrived.

"I was surprised and shocked when I saw this crowd. I never expected that," said co-pilot Eid Al Azmi inside the VIP lounge, his seven-year-old daughter tucked under his arm.

The first to descend the plane were the two ladies from the royal family, Ehtesam Khaled Al Sabah and Anwaar Khaled Al Sabah, who wiped away their tears as they hugged relatives at the airport. They were followed by their brother Khaled Al Sabah, the crew and the others.

They seemed rested and relaxed. Most of the male hostages had shaved and wore clean dishdashas and beaming smiles.

Treated

Anwaar said the hijackers treated her and her sister "with deference and without brutality." Fadhel said he was "psychologically fatigued" when he made a statement by radio to the Algiers' control tower asking that the gunmen's demands be met.

Ali Khaled Al Sabah, a member of Kuwait's ruling family and the brother of the three royal family members among the freed captives, told the Associated Press: "My happiness is indescribable. I feel as if my brother and two sisters have been resurrected from an inevitable doom."

"We feel deeply indebted to the Kuwaiti leadership and the government of Algeria," he said. "Fear used to come and go. My reliance was on God. I always had hope — to see my family again," said another ex-hostage Zaid Bakheet Al Ragm. (Continued on Page 2)



Kuwaitis dance and clap their hands to drums as they watch the homecoming hostages at the airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Air pirates wanted to hold hostages in Beirut

ROME, April 22, (AP): A Palestinian mediator in the Kuwaiti hijacking was quoted yesterday as saying that the hijackers originally planned to land in Beirut, hold the hostages in the city and blow up the plane.

Milad Abdo, deputy director of the PLO office in Cyprus who acted as a mediator during the Kuwaiti jet's stopover in Larnaca, was quoted as saying the plan was foiled because Syrian President Hafez Al Assad refused to let the plane land in Beirut.

Abdo spoke in an interview with Rome's Paese Sera newspaper, which released excerpts yesterday.

According to Abdo's account the terrorists wanted to land the plane in Beirut, off-load the passengers, hold them in hideouts in the city and blow up the Kuwaiti Airways Boeing 747.

Agreed

But Assad, whose troops control the area, spoke by telephone with HH the Amir of Kuwait and agreed to prevent the plane from landing in the Lebanese capital, the report said.

No other details were given. After a stop in Mashhad, Iran, the plane went on to Larnaca, where two passengers were killed, and then to Algiers, where the remaining hostages were released on Wednesday after a fortnight in captivity. The hijackers were allowed to go free.

Safe passage for terrorists criticised

NEW YORK, April 22, (Agencies): The United States and Britain have denounced the hijackers of a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet as cold-blooded killers and pointedly questioned Algeria's judgement in letting the sky pirates go to another country.

The ordeal ended early Wednesday in Algiers when 31 passengers and crew members who had been held hostage for 16 days left the Boeing 747, all apparently in good health, and the hijackers were believed to have been flown to another country.

Cause

"But I fear some of the terms will cause us very grave concern if they're as we think them to be, notably the fact that the hijackers appear to have been allowed to go free," he said.

This was a particularly cold-blooded and violent hijacking and as it becomes more apparent what the passengers were subjected to, more and more people will find it utterly repugnant if indeed the men have got away with it.

Twenty-two Britons were aboard the plane when it was hijacked April 5 on a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait. They were released in Mashhad, Iran, before the plane flew to Larnaca, Cyprus, where two Kuwaiti hos-

Syria, PLO to reconcile

DAMASCUS, April 22, (Reuters): Syria and the PLO have agreed to normalise relations after a five-year-long break, a senior Palestinian official said today.

Salim Al Zaoun, Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council, said that Arafat would visit Syria very soon and meet Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Arafat was expelled from Damascus in 1983.

Zaoun said the decision was made after talks between a high-ranking PLO delegation and Syrian Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam in Damascus last night.

He said the reconciliation was reached through Algerian mediation and recent secret Syrian-Palestinian contacts. "We can say that relations have been fully restored," Zaoun said.

Funeral

He said the Palestinian leadership which attended the funeral of slain Palestinian military commander Khalil Al Wazir in Damascus on Wednesday was expecting a meeting with the Syrian President.

The meeting with Khaddam was "constructive and fruitful" and we discussed in detail Palestinian-Syrian relations," Zaoun said.

Most of the PLO executive committee and members of Fatah central committee attended the meeting which was the highest ranking contact between Syria and the PLO in some five years, he said.

Guarantee

"We had full agreement on most issues especially those related to the suspicious initiatives by the American envoys which are aimed at saving Israel and crushing the uprising," Zaoun added.

Arafat was at first expected to attend the funeral of his military deputy but, according to Palestinian sources, he failed to get a guarantee he would see the Syrian President.

Zaoun said efforts were also being made to find ways in which representatives of all groups could be brought into the current PNC (parliament-in-exile).

He added that the Palestinians had expressed their appreciation of Syria's decision to receive the body of Al Wazir who was killed in Tunis last Saturday by gunmen widely believed to be Israelis.

More than half a million grieving Palestinians saw assassinated Palestinian leader Al Wazir to his grave in a refugee camp south of Damascus on Wednesday.

Men shouted and women sobbed as the white-shrouded body of Arafat's military deputy was lifted from a wooden coffin, draped in the white, black, red and green Palestinian flag, into the grave at the martyr's cemetery in Yarmouk camp.

Cheered

Some wept while others cheered and clapped when senior PLO officials walked into the camp protected by personal bodyguards and Syrian military police.

Arafat returned to his Tunis headquarters yesterday after reconciliation talks in Tripoli with Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi, Palestinian sources said.

He met Khaddafi on Wednesday, for the first time in six years in surprise talks coinciding with the funeral in Syria of his assassinated commander, Al Wazir.

The talks crowned recent PLO-Libyan reconciliation efforts in which Al Wazir was a key figure.

Israeli raid

BEIRUT, April 22, (Reuters): Israeli jets raided Palestinian targets in Druze-held areas south-east of Beirut today, security sources said.

They said the planes attacked positions in the hilltop areas of Haret Al-Naameh and Dowha near Aramoun, 20 km (12 miles) southeast of the capital, at four pm (1300 GMT).

Iran has become mad: Saddam

BAGHDAD, April 22, (Reuters): Baghdad said it sank a medium-sized Iranian naval target with all its crew today and the Iraqi President said Iran had become unbalanced.

"At 7.20 am (0320 GMT) today our naval forces sighted a medium war target," a military spokesman said in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Radio.

"We dealt it a direct hit, completely destroying it and sinking it with all the rogues who were on board," the statement said. It gave no other details.

(Continued on Page 2)

DAY BY DAY

THE citizens of Kuwait, after rejoicing at the return of the released hostages to the country, are asking HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince to continue their annual tradition of visiting citizens in their diwanis during Ramadan.

The citizens want to have this opportunity to express their support for the Amir and the Crown Prince during the recent crisis which ended in the release of the hostages.

We would like to see this tradition continue on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

Zahed Matar

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

○ طیارے کے رہائندگان کا کہتے ہیں شہر استقبالیہ

○ پاکستان نے جیو میں دستخطوں سے قبل یقین دہانیاں حاصل کر لی ہیں

○ شام اور لبنان میں مصالحت

○ امریکہ نے خلیج میں بحری قوت میں اضافہ کر لیا

WEATHER

PARTLY cloudy weather with light to moderate southeasterly wind changing later to moderate to fresh north-westerly wind and a chance for some rain.

State of sea: moderate
High water: 6.00 am, 3.00 pm
Low water: 11.00 am, 10.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.14 am
Sunset: 6.19 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 37°C 99°F
Ahmadli: 37°C 99°F
Faiaka: 39°C 84°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 25°C 77°F
Ahmadli: 25°C 77°F
Faiaka: 26°C 79°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 38°C 99°F
Ahmadli: 38°C 99°F
Faiaka: 27°C 81°F

Insak 3.40am
Ifar 6.19am

INTERNATIONAL

Freed hostages return

(Continued on Page 2)

His daughter Nihad hugged him and said "I am very happy. I can't believe it."

Two weeks of fear was behind many as they arrived home. "Take all my feelings away except that I'm happy now," said a Jordanian crew member Samir Ismail.

Helped

Smiling but still in daze, most of the male ex-hostages appeared physically fit although two had to be helped down the steps.

Hundreds of cars broke away from police barricades and crossed over pavements to join a motorcade taking the former captives to a family reunion at the Hunling and Equestrian Sports Club, near the airport.

Pilot Subhi Naim Youssef said simply: "Thank God."

An entire nation rejoiced and thanked God. The television and radio aired live the arrival. Kuwait Radio broadcast a special song praising the Amir and his government for their "triumph" over terrorism.

Unforgettable

"This is an unforgettable day in the history of Kuwait," said one senior Kuwaiti official, voicing the sentiments of thousands waiting for hours on the Airport Road and the 6th Ring Road.

"The presence of the Amir and the Crown Prince at the airport to receive the passengers underlines the extreme importance of the event for the Kuwaiti government," one observer said.

Security was tight and policemen were sprinkled around all roads leading to Kuwait with the road near the VIP lounge blocked two hours before the arrival of the plane carrying the former captives.

Frenzied crowds lined the route, waving national flags and victory signs as bedouin folk dancers performed the traditional sword dance.

The motorcade inched toward the club as women pressed against the windows of the bus carrying the former captives to hand them candies. Young men danced on the hoods of their cars, waving swords in an unprecedented show of public jubilation.

The celebration lasted until the early hours of Friday morning.

Agencies said Algerian authorities barred reporters and photographers from inspecting the hijacked jet which was expected to be flown back to Kuwait by a relief crew by the weekend.

Damage

One Kuwait Airways official said the hijackers deliberately caused serious damage to the plane's radio equipment before departing.

Reuters reports that the flight crew dismissed a report that one of the hijackers had flown the plane. "Negative, not true, not at all, it was the captain all the time and we would never let anybody handle the airplane with the passengers on board as long as we are alive," flight engineer Ayed Al Shumailan said.

Best-paid American executive

NEW YORK, April 22. (Reuters): The 36-year-old chairman of Lotus Development Corp edged out Chrysler Corp's Lee Iacocca as America's highest-paid chief executive officer last year, with compensation of \$26.3 million.

Iacocca, who took a \$6 million pay cut over the prior year because he exercised fewer stock options, came in second with total compensation of \$17.9 million, according to the May 2 issue of Business Week.

Survey

Only \$941,000 of Lotus chairman Jim Manzi's total compensation last year was in salary and bonus, with the rest from the such long-term items as stock options. Lotus, one of the hot growth companies of the 1980s, is best known for creating the widely used Lotus 1-2-3 computer software.

The survey, which covers 339 large companies, found that the average chief executive officer's annual pay rose a whopping 48 percent last year to \$1.8 million, with long-term compensation included.

Doctors strike

COLOMBO, April 22. (Reuters): Government doctors struck 24 hospitals in Sri Lanka today to protest against the award of medical degrees to private university students.

A Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) spokeswoman told reporters 1,500 doctors, 6,000 nurses, 15,000 hospital staff and 225 dentists did not work throughout the island because of the one-day strike.

Reagan picked Gulf targets

US sending 13 new warships

WASHINGTON, April 22. (Agencies): As 13 warships prepared to join America's Gulf task force, the Defence Department disclosed that President Reagan personally ordered destruction of Iranian attack boats during Monday's Gulf shoot-out.

Pentagon spokesman Dan Howard, briefing reporters yesterday, said the 13 warships — including the aircraft carrier Forrestal — would leave for Gulf duty next week.

News reports have speculated that Reagan will extend current US military protection in the Gulf beyond 11 reflagged tankers and other American flag vessels, requiring a larger American fleet near the Iran-Iraq war zone.

But Howard declined to say whether Washington was increasing the size of its 29-ship Gulf force or simply relieving vessels now on patrol.

Permission

At one point in Monday's battle, pilots sought permission to sink Iranian speedboats that were on the attack, he said.

"They (the speedboats) seemed to be firing at everything in sight. The request came from the jets to attack ... and the President said go ahead," Howard said.

The request was relayed through the Pentagon to Reagan, who approved the attack, and the order got back to the warplanes in just three minutes, according to the spokes-

man.

"Not only was it a very impressive performance by the men on the scene, but by the command and control structure as well," Howard said.

US naval forces in the Gulf fired 10 missiles in the clash with Iranian ships and aircraft this week and dodged at least seven Iranian missiles, a senior Navy official said yesterday.

Briefing

Vice adm. Henry Mustin, deputy chief of naval operations for plans and policy, also indicated the US warships may have used some of their advanced electronic systems to make the Iranian missiles miss their targets.

Mustin told a Pentagon news briefing that four Standard and four Harpoon missiles were fired by US Navy ships and aircraft at Iranian ships, with only one of the Standard missile missing its target.

A total of six Iranian ships and missile boats were hit by the US missiles and laser-guided bombs. Two of them were sunk, and a third was seen listing in the water as night fell on Monday and had disappeared by dawn Tuesday.

The White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said US naval operations in the Gulf were under review following the latest clash with Iran, but he said America's basic policy of guarding freedom of navigation there remained firm.

Iran vows to avenge deaths of its sailors

MANAMA, April 22. (Agencies): Mourners chanting "Death to America" held funeral services for Iranian sailors killed in clashes this week with US naval forces and new volunteers were reported leaving for the front to turn the Gulf into "Reagan's tomb."

Tehran Radio said the memorial services were held yesterday in the southern Iranian port of Bandar Abbas and Bushehr, 460 miles (740 km) south of Tehran. It said the mourners chanted "Death to America" as the shroud-wrapped bodies of the seamen were lowered into the ground.

Tehran officials said 15 Iranian sailors died and 29 were wounded in the fighting on Monday with a superior US naval

force. The radio report said more volunteers from throughout Iran left for the "battlefront" against world oppressors" yesterday amid farewell ceremonies that included the ritual slaughter of sheep.

Fired

Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Mousavi vowed yesterday that Iran would avenge the deaths of its sailors.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman dismissed allegations yesterday by the commander of Iran's Navy that American forces fired on and killed Iranian sailors who had abandoned their missile-damaged warship during Monday's naval battles.

Iran has become mad: Saddam

(Continued from Page 1)

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Iran had missed many opportunities to end the 7-1/2-year-old war honourably.

Hussein was speaking last night after he decorated Air Force Commander Air Marshal Hameed Shaaban, who led the 35-hour operation to liberate the southern Faw oil terminal which Iran had occupied for two years.

Unbalanced

Hussein said Iran had become unbalanced after the loss of Faw. "Like madmen they attacked at random the Americans, the UAE, the British and any passing ship," he said.

Two Iranian frigates were badly damaged — one possibly sunk — in a firefight with US naval forces on Monday.

"The enemy would have gained the hearts of many people saying he had achieved his aim of liberating Iranian territory after Iraq withdrew its forces to international borders in 1982 ... he would have gained much," Hussein said.

He said Iran could also have used its failure to capture Iraq's southern port city of Basra the same year as an excuse to end the war. "We would have kept silent in one way or another," Hussein added.

The Iraqi leader ridiculed Iranian calls for volunteers to launch new offensive against Iraq.

Resistance

"Let them attack on 10 war fronts ... haven't they had the ability to attack on two, three or four fronts and not done so?" he said.

In a telex to Reuters, Iran's main opposition, Mujahedeen Khalq, said its fighters killed a Revolutionary Guards commander inside Iran last week.

The Baghdad-based resistance group said Ahmed Bagheri, described as a Regional Guards Corps commander-in-charge of Chah Bahar naval base in south-east Iran, died in a mujahedeen ambush.

Iraq accused Iran of firing rockets at an Iraqi border town yesterday hours after a ceasefire in the "war of the cities" declared unilaterally by Baghdad.

A high command communiqué said Iran rocketed Al Qurneh, 70 km (40 miles) from the southern port city of Basra, killing or wounding an unspecified number of civilians.

Tehran made no mention of such an attack on its daily war reports.



A hug from the mother for overwhelmed Khalid.

'It's a new life'

By Lima Al Khalafawi

"IT'S like a new life," Ahmed Abdullah Hussain one of the released passengers, exclaimed after arriving safely home again.

He added: "We were all asleep when it was finished. We didn't even see the hijackers leave the plane. The Algerians woke us up to tell us that it was all over."

Looking tired, but relieved, Ahmed said that the hijackers kept kicking the hostages whenever they resisted or tried to talk among themselves. "We did not know that two of our brothers had been killed until after we were released," he said.

Realise

"At first we didn't realise the plane had been hijacked until we saw these hooded men carrying pistols and hand grenades. They kept us very strictly controlled. Sometimes they allowed us to use the toilets, other times they wouldn't."

"They did not let us have the food as soon as it came; they often made us wait. The hijackers usually did not eat until a couple of hours after the hostages."

Safe passage for terrorists...

(Continued from Page 1)

believes one of the hijackers may be a Lebanese citizen wanted for a 1985 hijacking in which a US serviceman was killed.

Spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the hijacker may have been Hassan Izz Al Din, one of four suspects indicted in 1985 by a US grand jury on charges of piracy in connection with the hijacking of Trans World Airlines Flight 847 and the murder of Navy diver Robert Stethem.

She said it would be impossible to identify the hijackers until investigations are complete, adding "unless they are arrested

He added: "They took individuals off to be interrogated many times. They kept asking which religious sect we belonged to and if we knew any important people here in Kuwait."

"They beat us a lot," he said.

Allowed

Reuters adds: Two Saudi hostages said Iran allowed three armed men to board the aircraft during its stop in Mashhad.

"When the airplane landed at Iran's Mashhad airport three other people boarded the plane armed with all sorts of weapons, as if they were on their way to battle," 32-year-old Saud Omran Al Omran said in remarks published on Thursday.

"The terrorists were getting on and off the airplane at Mashhad airport without any restriction," he said.

Abdel Aziz Mubarak Al Zahran, a Saudi national, said all the hijackers were Lebanese and spoke a dialect from the south of the country.

"They were always trying to change their accents and spoke broken French and English in order not to reveal their nationalities," he said.

and prosecuted, we may never know" for sure.

Another US official, who asked not to be identified, said Izz Al Din had been identified from photographs by hostages released earlier by the hijackers. "But it's soft," he said. "Some say yes, while others are not so sure. It's not 100 per cent nailed down."

Western diplomatic sources said they had evidence the hijackers had reached Beirut after Algerian officials allowed them to go free at the end of the 16-day siege. Officials at the Beirut airport denied the hijackers landed there.

10 Arabs wounded in Gaza

Palestinians protest slaying of Abu Jihad

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 22. (AP): Chanting Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip hurled rocks and set tires ablaze after prayers today to protest the slaying of a PLO leader. Israeli troops shot and wounded 10 Arabs, hospital officials said.

About 200 Palestinian youths emerged from noon prayers at the Al Omari mosque in Gaza city, throwing rocks at Israeli troops, and chanting "youths gather, gather because Abu Jihad sacrificed his blood," Arab witnesses said.

Troops hurled tear gas canisters and fired live ammunition into the air to disperse the crowd. In the nearby Jabaliya refugee camp in Gaza, troops opened fire on rock-throwing Arab protesters after noon prayers, Arab witnesses said. Hospital officials said 10 Palestinians were wounded, including a 26-year-old man in critical condition with a gunshot wound to the head.

The Army said it was checking the report.

The Palestinians were protesting the slaying of PLO military commander Khalil Al Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, who was gunned down at his home in Tunis last Saturday.

According to a Tunisian government report, Al Wazir, who grew up in Gaza, was killed by an Israeli commando team. Israeli sources have also confirmed Israel carried out the assassination.

Shultz meets Gorbachev

Hopes for new arms control accord fade

MOSCOW, April 22. (AP): As hopes for a new arms control accord faded, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev suggested today to US Secretary of State George Shultz that "maybe we're marking time."

The session at gilded Catherine's Hall in the Kremlin wound up Shultz's talks with little noticeable headway toward having a strategic arms treaty ready for the superpowers summit planned for late May.

When Shultz told Gorbachev, "I'm here to make preparations for the President's visit," Gorbachev responded: "As for the substance, it seems that we are losing something."

"Maybe we're marking time,"

Underground leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the territories have called for a "Day of Rage" tomorrow to mark a week since Al Wazir's slaying.

In leaflets bearing Al Wazir's picture, the leaders also ordered Palestinians to step up attacks with "stones, petrol bombs, metal balls and slingshots" to avenge the PLO leader's death.

In Jerusalem, several hundred worshippers at the sacred Al Aqsa mosque demonstrated briefly after prayers today, unfurling black banners in memory of Al Wazir.

The Army announced the release of several dozen Arab youths suspected of throwing stones in anti-Israeli demonstrations to mark the month-long Islamic festival of Ramadan, Israel Radio said.

Disappointment — Also today, Israeli embassy officials in Cairo expressed disappointment over a record low turnout at an annual independence day reception given yesterday for Israel's 40 anniversary, the radio said.

It said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak did not send a representative, and no Egyptian ministers attended the event.

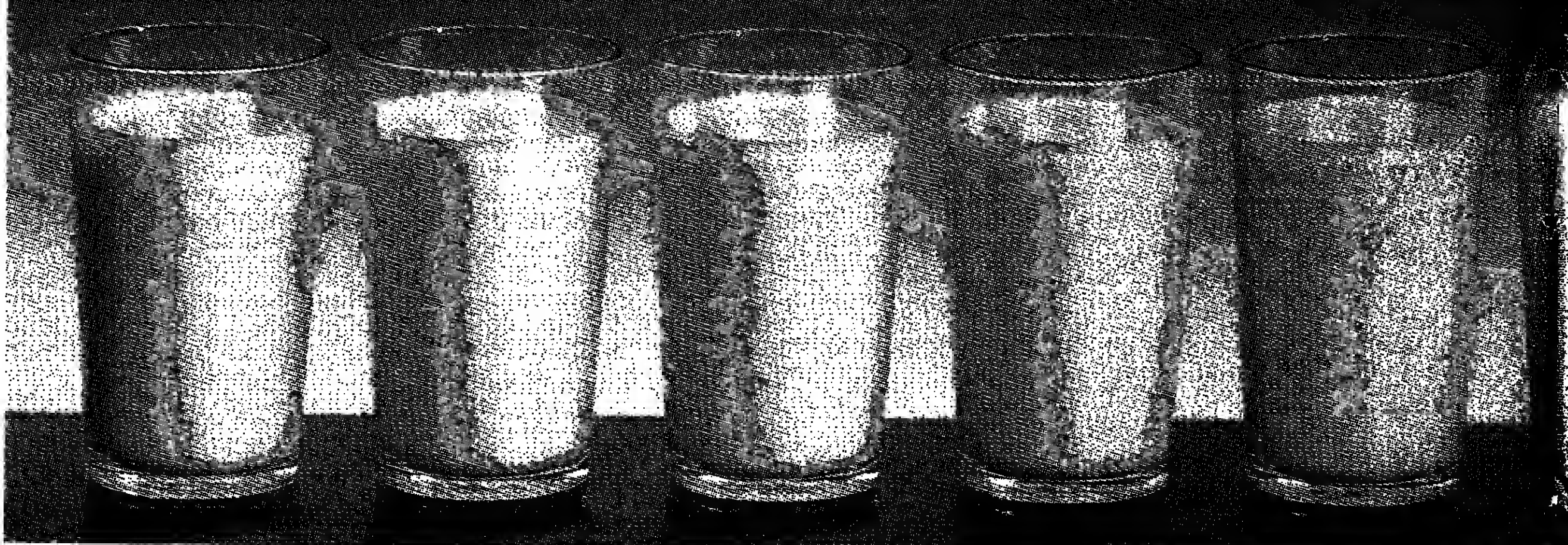
"Of course it is not pleasant. We have problems all over the world stemming from the (unrest) of the last months," Foreign Ministry Director-General Avraham Tamir said of the Egyptian government's boycott of the reception.

The Soviet leader said. They shook hands at the outset, but Gorbachev seemed somewhat subdued. US reporters were cautioned by Soviet officials that if they attempted to ask questions of Gorbachev during the photo-taking session they would not be invited back.

Struggle — The meeting was held amid reports of a Kremlin power struggle between Gorbachev and No. 2 man Yegor O. Ligachev. "Ligachev" is regarded as more conservative than Gorbachev, especially on the Soviet leader's policy of "glasnost," or greater openness, and reports this week have said he has lost some of his power in the ruling politburo.

بِقَفْسِ الثَّمَنِ

MORE MILK: SAME PRICE





● A Pakistani girl having her meal as she sits amid rubble caused by massive explosions in Rawalpindi. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tunisia seeks debate on Abu Jihad's murder

UN asked to condemn Israel

UNITED NATIONS, April 22. (Reuters) Tunisia called on the Security Council yesterday to condemn Israel's "state terrorism" in the murder last Monday of a top Palestine Liberation Organisation official in his Tunis home.

Khalil Al Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, was shot to death in front of his wife and daughter in a 14-minute nighttime operation alleged to have been carried out by Israeli commandos. Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri asked the Security Council to condemn what he termed an Israeli act of aggression, but produced no new evidence of Israel's involvement in the assassination. Israeli leaders have neither confirmed nor denied their forces' involvement in the incident, which was widely condemned, including by the United States. Israel's UN delegation

decided not to take part in the Council debate, which coincided with Israeli anniversary. It is thought to have been the first time Israel had boycotted Council proceedings in which it was the object of a complaint.

In a press statement, the delegation said Tunisia had made unsubstantiated and speculative accusations, in particular a statement indicating that Israel admitted the attack.

"To set the record straight, Israel has made no such admission or declared any such intention with regard to Tunisia," the statement said.

Evidence

In his opening remarks, Mestiri said there was clear evidence that the attack on Wazir, the PLO military commander, was premeditated. A Tunisian garrison and two PLO guards also were killed in the action. Mestiri said the killers came

and left by sea while a modified Boeing 707 bearing Israeli insignia flew along the Tunisian coast in a communications jamming operation.

According to the Washington Post, two senior Israeli military commanders aboard the aircraft directed the operation. Jordan's delegate, Abdullah Salah, quoted from his account in his address to the council.

Meanwhile, Tunisia said it was issuing international arrest warrants for three members of an Israeli assassination squad which gunned down Abu Jihad. The official news agency TAP said President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali ordered warrants issued for three of the attackers, who used Lebanese passports to enter Tunisia.

It gave the names in which the passports were issued as Khalil Kati, Haouata Allam Mustafa and Goriath Najir Rachad.

Reagan signs new cooperation accord

US strengthens Israeli ties

WASHINGTON, April 22. (Reuters) President Reagan marked Israel's 40th anniversary yesterday by signing a document that commits the United States and its Mideast ally to keep cooperating on defence and economics, the White House said.

At the same time, Reagan renewed an appeal to Israel and its Arab neighbours to agree to begin peace negotiations. "To this end, the President has asked Secretary of State (George) Shultz to continue his peace-making efforts, seeking a comprehensive settlement which will assure Israeli security and provide for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in a written statement.

Commitment

He said Reagan, in an Oval Office ceremony attended by Israeli Ambassador Moshé Arad, signed a memorandum of agreement that "formalises and perpetuates the bilateral US and Israeli consultative groups" that went on military, security assistance and economic development issues.

A simultaneous signing ceremony took place on Israel.

the White House said.

"The memorandum reiterates for the public record our long-standing relationship of strategic cooperation with Israel," Fitzwater said. "It reflects the enduring US commitment to Israel's security."

However, US-Israeli differences on how the peace process should proceed and continuing violence in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories apparently prompted the White House to make Thursday's ceremony unusually low-key.

While stating that the US commitment to Israel "will never flag," Fitzwater added: "The US commitment to peace will also not flag."

"The President knows that a strong Israel is necessary if peace is to be possible. He also knows that Israel can never be truly secure without peace."

The accord sets a framework for political, military and economic cooperation and reaffirms the close relations between the two countries, calling Israel "a major non-Nato ally of the United States."

It acknowledges publicly for the first time the extent of military cooperation in "com-

bined planning, joint exercises and logistics."

Shamir said at the signing ceremony in the occupied Jerusalem: "The United States was the first country to recognise Israel in 1948, a few minutes after our declaration of independence was proclaimed."

Expression

"It is very significant indeed that we give today special expression to this unique partnership in common values, in interest and in the desire for peace."

Israel gets \$3 billion a year from the United States in military and economic aid, making it by far the largest recipient of American assistance.

A senior aide noted the accord was signed despite Shamir's continued opposition to US proposals for a Middle East peace conference and despite some differences on Israel's handling of a four-month Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories.

"This is the first time Israel and the United States have decided to put everything in writing and publish it officially," he said.

"It underlines the pact that you can differ with the US on

certain issues and still keep a very close relationship."

The agreement calls for frequent consultations and meetings between US and Israeli leaders and stresses the importance of joint working groups on strategic military cooperation, defence assistance and economic aid.

Condemnation

Meanwhile, the Arab League has announced a US-Israeli agreement on mutual understanding as an insult to an international community outraged at Israel's handling of Palestinian unrest.

Clovis Maksoud, the League's United Nations observer, said the pact was a blow to the Middle East peace initiative of President Reagan's administration and could be counteracted only by US endorsement of a UN-sponsored peace conference.

Both Israel and the United States have so far rejected UN proposals for a Middle East peace conference.

As envisioned at the world body, the conference would include the Palestine Liberation Organisation, with which Israel refuses to negotiate.

Smokers harm others

ATLANTA, April 22. (Reuters) Nearly 80 per cent of American smokers are convinced their smoking is harmful to others around them, according to a new survey released yesterday by the US Centers for Disease Control. CDC reported its survey of 13,000 adults found that a large majority of Americans, whether smokers or non-smokers, believed people can be harmed by so-called "passive smoking" — smoke inhaled by non-smokers when others around them are smoking.

The report was released just as new regulations were to take effect Saturday banning smoking on any domestic airline flight which lasts less than two hours.

According to CDC, the majority of Americans prefer to sit in non-smoking sections in air-planes and restaurants. Overall, 88 per cent of those surveyed said they believed passive smoking can be harmful.

Top Indian officer killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, April 22. (AP) A lieutenant colonel in the Indian army and three Tamil rebels were killed yesterday in a gunbattle in northern Sri Lanka, an official of the Indian High Commission said.

The official said an Indian Army patrol was ambushed by rebels at Uripiram village, about 42 kilometres southeast of Jaffna, the northern capital.

Jaffna is 300 kilometres north of Colombo. Lieut. Col. A.S. Sekhon, who was leading the patrol, and three rebels were killed in the ensuing gunbattle, the official said.

Casualties

More than 50,000 Indian troops have been posted in Sri Lanka to disarm the rebels. Their deployment followed the signing of a peace accord aimed at ending the four-year Tamil war for an independent homeland.

It was earlier reported that eight civilians were killed when they were caught in the cross fire between Indian troops and Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka, residents of the area said yesterday.

The firefight occurred Wednesday near the village of Puthukkudiyiruppu in Mullaitivu district, the residents said. The area is 217 kilometres north of Colombo.

The residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Indian troops fired machine guns and mortars at the village.

Tigers

An official at the Indian High Commission said there had been reports of a skirmish at the village "but we have no reports of any civilian casualties."

The United News of India news agency also reported the incident, saying that eight people were killed, but said details were not available.

The rebel group was identified by UNI as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The Tigers militia, the largest of the Tamil separatist groups, has rejected an Indian-brokered peace accord for the country and vowed to continue its fight for an independent Tamil homeland.

Bid to kill Amal leader foiled

BEIRUT, April 22. (AP) Christian and Shiite Muslim militiamen battled with rockets and machine guns in south Beirut yesterday and police said two people were killed and five wounded.

Police said two people killed and five wounded in the one-hour shootout between Shiite gunmen from various factions, Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal movement, and the right-wing Christian Lebanese Forces militia.

The independent An-Nahar daily quoted an unnamed Amal official as charging that the Christians had assigned a woman who works as a maid at Berri's residence to assassinate the Amal leader with an "explosives-rigged jacket."

It quoted the Shiite woman, Safiya Tofeli, as saying a Lebanese forces official "provided me with a jacket, saying a camera was concealed in it."

The Christian, identified as Brig. Gen. Michael Haddad, told me he wanted a close-up picture of Berri from a distance of not more than one metre."

4 French troops slain in Caledonia

NOUMEA, April 22. (Reuters) Four paramilitary gendarmes were hacked to death and some 20 taken hostage by indigenous Kanak separatists after a violent clash in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia, officials said today. No other deaths were reported. The gendarmes were killed instantly in an axe and machete attack on a French barracks by a group of about 30 Kanaks on the island of

Ouvéa, 140 km from the capital, Noumea. A fourth officer died of a fractured skull later and seven other people, four gendarmes and three Kanaks, were reported in serious condition.

Police said the Kanak assailants, some of them armed with guns, had seized the weapons of some 20 to 26 gendarmes and were holding them hostage in underground caves in

the east of the crescent-shaped lagoon-ringed island.

Crack gendarme paratroopers had been rushed in by air from the main island and some 200 French troops were ringing the caves.

The early morning assailants had spared the women and children of the gendarmes stationed on the small island and they were being ferried to the main New Caledonia island.

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Taiwan frees 6,000 in general amnesty

TAIPEI, April 22. (AP) The Nationalist government began freeing 6,000 prisoners, including 19 charged with sedition, in a mass amnesty today to mark the 100-day anniversary of President Chiang Chung-Kuo's death.

Ministry of Justice officials said the release of gangsters, corrupt government officials and other criminals began at dawn after brief ceremonies at jails across the island. Each prisoner was presented a red package containing a few hundred Taiwan dollars to wish them luck, they said.

Meanwhile, transportation officials reported all domestic flights and trains were packed as the prisoners, escorted by friends and relatives, headed for home. All 6,000 prisoners were out of jail by afternoon.

Justice officials said 16,000 other prisoners remained in jail pending completion of their sentences, which were shortened in the commutation.

Commutation

Death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment, life sentences reduced to 15 years and lesser sentences cut by one-third or one-half. Many of those who left prison today already were serving reduced sentences because of an earlier commutation when martial law was lifted in July.

President Lee Teng-Hui proposed the commutations in February after succeeding Chiang, who died of heart failure Jan. 13. Lee, the first native Taiwanese to head the Nationalist government, approved final details of the plan Tuesday.

Prominent dissident Tai Hwa-Kuang and nine other political prisoners were released from a jail on Green Island, 300 kilometres southeast of Taipei, justice officials said.

Tai, 37, was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1978 on charges of plotting to topple the Nationalist government by forming an underground communist organisation.

The mass-circulation United Daily News, in a dispatch from Green Island, quoted Tai as saying Wednesday he believed when he was arrested that the Nationalist government was "hopeless." He was quoted as saying he no longer would be involved in politics.

India denies payoff in W. German sub deal

NEW DELHI, April 22. (Reuters) The Indian government said on Thursday that no payoffs were made in a controversial purchase of West German submarines, disputing allegations that rocked Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government last year.

Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant told parliament that an investigation found no evidence of bribery or other corrupt practices involved in the 1981 arms deal with the Howaldtswerk-Deutsche Werft AG of Kiel.

Former Defence Minister Viswanath Pratap Singh ordered an investigation into the \$1.3 billion deal involving four HDW type 1,500 submarines following allegations that a \$23 million commission was paid to an Indian agent.

At the time, HDW denied any improper practices.

Resignation

The investigation and other defence payoff allegations sullied Rajiv's reputation and led to Singh's forced resignation from the cabinet and later expulsion from the ruling Congress (I) Party.

"The allegations have been found to have no basis," Pant said, as opposition members hooted in derision.

Pant told the Lok Sabha that investigative agencies had found no substance in allegations of corruption, foreign exchange violations or commission payments to agents which are against Indian government policy.

The HDW deal involved the purchase of two of the diesel-powered submarines, both commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1986. HDW also supplied kits for two others to be assembled in the Bombay naval dockyard.

Singh gained a reputation as India's leading corruption fighter while serving as Finance Minister but his vigorous enforcement of tax and foreign exchange laws irked many wealthy and powerful supporters of Rajiv.

The Prime Minister suddenly shifted Singh from the Finance to the Defence Ministry in January 1987. Singh resigned on April 12 after he began the HDW investigation.

Late marriages are a new social phenomenon

THE assistant undersecretary for technical affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Abdullah Ghloom Hussein, has said that marriage, divorce and late marriages by both sexes were prevalent in all human societies, with variations from one to another.

He added in a research published by the Council of Labour Minister's Follow-up Office, that late marriages in Kuwait were not indications of any social problem in the country and that these were simply new social phenomenon.

Dowry

He pointed out that the reluctance of Kuwaiti men to wed Kuwaiti women was the result of high dowries.

The intervention of competent Kuwaiti authorities was needed to put an end to high dowry demands and to prevent the spread of spinsterhood.

According to statistics provided in the research, the number of people whose age was

over 30 years and had never married before was 5550, of whom 3146 were males and 2404 females, based on the population census of 1980.

Reasons

According to the research findings the reasons for late marriages included class considerations, high dowry, cost of living, lack of adequate opportunity for both sexes to meet and get to know each other, lack of marriage age limit, desire to continue education, reluctance to relinquish personal freedom and shoulder responsibilities for children and dedication to the pursuit of political and social careers.

Classes

Proposed solutions to the late marriage problems included the need to raise public awareness of equality, provision of financial aid to the would-be spouses, emphasis of the role played by the family and paving the way for families to know each other.

The research also highlighted

that the Kuwaiti social system consisted of three classes, the bourgeois representing 10 per cent, the middle class 70 per cent, and the working class 20 per cent, and that votes for marriage to people of lower social class were 84 per cent.

Families questioned about marriage to a person with lower social status were 86 per cent for and 14 per cent against, compared to 85 per cent who agreed to marriage to a person of a higher social status with 15 per cent rejecting the idea utterly.

Positive

Ghloom pointed out that these findings were positive signs of class awareness, stressing that 85 to 90 per cent of the people asked did not believe in class differences or social, family and financial considerations.

The research stressed that qualities sought in the spouse included religious attitudes and character in the first place, social status in the fourth place, family influence in the sixth place and financial consideration last.

Kuwait aims to provide housing for all citizens

THE assistant rector for research at Kuwait University, Dr Abdul Rasoul Al Moosa, said Kuwait was one of the countries that provided housing for its citizens.

He added that the government used oil returns for modernising the country and laying down the social and economic bases for the country.

Changed

He said one of the first aims of the state was to plan housing areas for its citizens. These were to be the suburbs or model areas for housing Kuwaitis living in the

old part of the city.

Dr Al Moosa said the social structure of the state, which changed totally after the appearance of oil, was a direct reason for the appearance of the housing crisis. This crisis obliged the state to offer a house to each Kuwaiti family through the National Housing Authority and the Credit and Savings Bank.

Isolation

Housing units for non-Kuwaitis increased from 17,046 in 1957 to 152,935 in 1985, an

annual increase of 32 per cent. This showed the importance of immigration to the housing sector, he said.

Some areas became totally occupied by non-Kuwaitis and this increased the housing problem, besides causing a deep social isolation between the non-Kuwaitis, who formed 60 per cent of the population, and the citizens.

He said the contribution of the private sector through the establishment of real estate companies and housing societies might help to solve the housing problem.

Study on water leakage near-complete

A STUDY on water leakage from the water networks is almost complete, according to officials at the Electricity and Water Ministry.

The study aimed at cutting down the loss rate, they added.

The ministry will also conduct field studies to find solutions for the rise in water levels in some areas, including underground water at residential areas in Kuwait.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research is cooperating with the ministry in conducting a study that included digging 142 water wells at selected areas in two stages. The first stage will cover 60 wells and the second will cover 82 wells.

There is also a project to

Computer processes work permits

A SOURCE at Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour said the ministry's computer centre is being used in a number of ways.

He said that the computer system was now being used to process work permits and licences which made it possible to increase security of these records and to reach planning objectives.

Since the beginning of the year the centre has completed all maintenance work on the computer system and has held a number of training courses for computer operators. The source added that the centre was responsible for providing statistics on local manpower for the 1987 work year.

The source said the computer system also provides 17 Kuwaiti sports clubs, 14 sports unions and their members with data and information on statistics and financial reports.

improve and enhance the water services and studies will be made in this connection. Computer programmes will assist staff to prepare lists of requirements and to design systems for international installation of water pipes.

The study will include causes of rust in water pipes, specifically in networks connected to power stations and distillation plants.

Workers' conference adopts number of proposals

THE 2nd General Conference of the Federation of the Government Workers Union concluded their activities last week with the adoption of a number of proposals and recommendations.

The conference approved a number of labour and union claims, which included the need to discontinue increasing workloads in an effort to cut spending costs.

Other proposals endorsed, included the right to a 45-day periodical leave, cancellation of the secrecy code in reporting workers' performance, the need for a policy on maternity and family care leave and the representation of one union member on the Civil Service Council.

The conference called for efforts to reform the administrative system in the government sector, to curb attempts to use influence and authority in gaining personal favours and offering leading jobs to qualified Kuwaiti youths.

It was also proposed that May 1 be an official holiday in Kuwait, as it is in other countries.

Cables of congratulations

HH the Amir has received a number of congratulatory cables from Kuwaiti officials and private institutions on the occasion of the end of the Kuwaiti plane ordeal.

The Amir sent a cable to HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah in reply to an earlier cable.

In his reply cable, the Amir thanked the Crown Prince and Premier and members of the government for their efforts and cooperation which assisted in finding an end to the ordeal of the Kuwaiti plane.

The Amir received congratulatory cables from the Egyptian community in Kuwait, staff of the Public Authority for Housing, Electricity and Water Ministry personnel. The public institution for Social Security, Kuwait Finance House, the Kuwaiti Olympics Committee and Kuwait Sporting Club.

The Amir received the envoy of the Sultan of Oman Qaboos Bin Saeed and its Interior Minister Bader Bin Saud Bin Harab who conveyed congratulations of the Sultan and people of Oman, to the Amir and the Kuwaiti people on the end of the hijack ordeal.

The Amir received a cable of congratulations from Sheikh Abdullah Al Mubarak Al Sabah.

The Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was telephoned on Thursday by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Lebanese Premier Salim Al Hoss, congratulating him on the end of the ordeal of the Kuwaiti plane and the safety of its passengers.

Sheikh Saad received a cable from chief of the National Guards Sheikh Salem Al Ali Al Sabah on the occasion of ending the crisis of the hijacked airliner.

Bahraini Premier Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa sent a cable of congratulation to the Amir of Kuwait over the end of the hijack crisis.

Sheikh Saad received a phone call from Bahraini Crown Prince and Commander of Armed Forces Sheikh Ahmad Bin Issa Al Khalifa congratulating Sheikh Saad on the end of 16-day crisis of the Kuwaiti hijacked airliner.

Sheikh Saad received a telephone call from Deputy Chairman of Iraqi Revolutionary Council Izzat Ibrahim, congratulating him on the end of the hijack crisis.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi sent a cable of congratulations to the Amir over the end of the 16-day crisis of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner.

Praise
Kuwaiti Journalists Association praised in a statement the prudence of the Amir in handling the crisis of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner.

Celebrations
Undersecretary of Education Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Khudari called on all schools to hold celebrations today on the occasion of the end of the 16-day hijacking of the Kuwaiti jumbo jet.

Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Mohammed Saud Al Limei on Thursday hosted an iftar banquet to celebrate the end of the hijack of the Kuwaiti plane.

President Zia-ul-Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on Thursday sent messages to Amir of Kuwait on the release of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner.

Praised
Turkish President Kenan Evren praised Kuwait's firm and uncompromising stand resulting in the release of the last 31 hostages held aboard a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner in Algiers, official sources said on Thursday.

The National Union of Kuwait Students, the United States branch, on Thursday sent a letter to Kuwait's Ambassador to Washington Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah expressing their gratitude to the Almighty for the safety of the passengers of Al-Jaberiya, hijacked on April 5.

Kuwait's aid to Lebanon distributed

BEIRUT, April 22. (Kuna): Local and international institutes ended the distribution of medical equipments which were granted by the Kuwaiti government to Lebanese people, an official supervising distribution process said.

Kuwait's aid to Lebanon is estimated at more than ten million US dollars.

On the other side a second shipment of Italian food aid has arrived in Lebanon.

Two weeks ago Italy sent its first shipment which was estimated at \$17 million.

The bodies which will distribute the assistance are Unicef and Al Hariri institute.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri cable

HH the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom on the occasion of her country's National Day.

Crown Prince cable

HH the Crown Prince, and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah on Thursday sent a cable of congratulations to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the occasion of her country's National Day.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Unique Kuwaiti attitude highly praised

THE Kuwaiti press was yesterday highly appreciative of the wise and sober manner by which the leaders of the country handled the issue of the hijacked airliner to the happy ending on Wednesday.

"The unique Kuwaiti attitude was responsible for ending the 16-day ordeal of the Boeing 747 in the manner Kuwait planned and desired," the press said, commenting on the safe return home on Thursday night from Algiers, of the passengers and crew of the plane.

Writing for the second day running on the release of the airliner, the press was unanimous in reaching the conclusion that the incident "consolidated the national unity and demonstrated cohesion of the internal front."

Welcoming the returning passengers and crew, the newspapers said the Kuwaiti government succeeded in securing the safe release of the plane without having to bow to blackmail despite the loss of two of the young Kuwaitis at the hands of the hijackers.

Two of the newspapers jubilantly linked between the safe ending of the Boeing ordeal and the liberation of the Iraqi Faw Island from the Iranian occupation as "demonstrating the triumph of the peace-loving countries over the forces of evil."

One newspaper described the hijacking as a futile attempt to "imprison the entire Kuwaiti nation" but vowed to revenge the killing of the two young Kuwaitis.

Strong solidarity

THE Kuwaiti press was jubilant on Thursday at the peaceful ending of the ordeal of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner and the release of all the passengers and crew without Kuwait having to bow to political blackmail.

The press was unanimous in commending the wise steering of HH the Amir of the 16-day tragedy and the firm stand he and the government and the people of Kuwait took in resisting the terrorists' blackmail.

Al Qabas said Kuwait "succeeded in converting the hijackers into hostages inside the plane after our steadfastness and cohesion robbed them of their weapons of threats and warnings."

"The world should respond to the Kuwaiti lesson to the hijackers by finding a formula for collectively dealing with the hijackers rather than compromising with them which will only lead to more terrorism," the daily said.

Al Rai Al Aam attributed the happy ending of the hijacking to the "strong cohesion and solidarity between the leadership of the country and the people."

"History will record glorious pages for Kuwait which knows its course and realises its responsibilities and appreciates the magnitude of risks and challenges facing it," the newspaper said, praising the Kuwaiti leadership for its prudence and solid cohesion they showed during the tragic ordeal.

The newspaper assured the hijackers that Kuwait will never surrender to terrorism and blackmail and will never deviate from its course under pressure or threats.

Al Anbaa, writing along the same lines, said the happy ending of the hijacking drama "is a defeat for terrorism," noting that the two young Kuwaitis killed by the hijackers were not the first victims of "our freedom and dignity and will not be the last."

Liberation of Faw

A KUWAITI magazine has affirmed that Iraq's liberation of Faw peninsula lost Iran a great strategic leverage and restored balance between the two warring states.

Al Talea affirmed the "strategic privilege of the Iranian military stationing in the Faw peninsula which gave Tehran the upper hand in the southern front and in the northern Gulf in addition to closing the Iraqi ports of Um Qasr and Amiq."

The magazine, in its latest issue's editorial, hoped that liberation of Faw will urge the reasonable Iranian officials to reconsider the feasibility of the continuation of that war, dragging since September 1980.

Troops of both countries are almost in the same positions after more than seven and half years of bitter fighting and the two belligerents along with peoples of the region were the losers, the publication emphasised.

Iranian insistence on starting implementation of the security council resolution 598 on an end to the Gulf war, that is starting with determining who started the war, emanated from the "strategic supremacy following occupation of Faw," it added.

Talea called for an end to the war that had inflicted hundreds of thousands of casualties and caused the loss of hundreds of billions of dollars.

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Arab image tarnished

Mubarak condemns hijack as an act of terrorism

PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak of Egypt has condemned, in a press interview, the hijack of the Kuwaiti airliner as an act of terrorism which the enemies of the Arab world would exploit to project Arabs as terrorists and barbarians.

"This act is rejected as it gives a bad impression about Arabs. The hijackers used murder and terror which would tarnish the Arab image. We are accused abroad of being barbaric so why commit this act?" the Egyptian leader said in an interview appearing in the weekly Al Yaqada.

In the wide-ranging interview, President Mubarak lamented the current state of Arab affairs and urged Arab governments to sink differences and reach a minimum of understanding in the face of foreign challenges.

Example
"We Arabs need to follow the example set by Europe and the European Common Market, which struck a minimum of cooperation despite having divergent views," the Egyptian leader went on.

Replying to a question, Mubarak stressed that Arab governments should draft measures in support of the Palestinian popular uprising and its

goal of achieving the legitimate national Palestinian rights. Mubarak asserted that the Palestinian people had suffered a lot under the yoke of the protracted Israeli occupation, which created a feeling of desperation, particularly among the young generation.

Settlement
Stressing that peace is becoming urgent more than ever, Mubarak argued that Israel should stop settlement activities in occupied Arab lands, and this should be followed by granting the political rights of the Palestinian people.

A third step, Mubarak added, would be holding an international conference attended by all parties to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute and its core, the Palestinian problem.

Mubarak lashed out at Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's rejection of the peace conference, which the Egyptian President stressed serves as a good platform for reaching a settlement.

Asked about the thorny issue of Palestinian representation, Mubarak was categorical that the Arab world would reach a formula for the Palestinian delegation to the conference.

"We are telling them you first

agree on the form of the international conference and leave the ball in the Arab court. For we will definitely reach agreement on a formula on Palestinian representation at the conference," Mubarak said.

Recovering to another query, the Egyptian leader said theoretically he is supportive of the notion of an independent Palestinian state if that was possible, but stated he is not very optimistic about the likelihood of achieving such a goal in the near future.

"First we would recover our land. But if we were able to directly attain an independent (Palestinian) state then this is much welcome. But being realistic I do not want to race against events as this would create many complications," Mubarak added.

Concluding President Mubarak pointed out that the Arab defence pact covers cooperation not only in defence, but provides for cooperation in economic and political spheres.

"If there is no economic cooperation, then no-one could contribute to defence efforts. We are required to have a clear strategy, and this matter is of utmost importance," Mubarak said.

Tunisia-Kuwait discuss cultural ties

THE Undersecretary of Kuwait's Education Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Khudari received the General Inspector of the Tunisian Education Ministry Abdul Aziz Bal Hassan at his

office. Bal Hassan, who visited from April 16 to 19, spoke with Al Khudari about further developing cultural and educational relations between Kuwait and Tun-

isia. The Tunisian official and his accompanying delegation also met with the supervisors of English, Arabic, Islamic education, and maths departments.



Al Khudari (right) chats with Bal Hassan, the General Inspector of the Tunisian Education Ministry, during his recent visit to Kuwait.



Bal Hassan (centre) discusses a number of educational issues with department supervisors.

Arab food imports to cost \$200b by the year 2000

ACCORDING to a study issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council's Chamber of Commerce Union, Arab countries will import food valued at \$200 billion by the year 2000. The study also showed that investment in the agricultural sector has decreased compared to total investments in the national economy of GCC states.

As a result of the study's findings, recommendations have been made to establish a regional food storage plan, with food stored through collective agreement to be used in case of natural disaster in the Arab world.

The study found that Arab countries imported foodstuffs worth \$30 billion in 1984 for a population of 187 million. The Arab world population is expected to increase to 289 million in 2000.

Arab Gulf states imported agricultural and food imports worth \$9.714 billion in 1983, or 43 percent of their total imports, which reached \$22.616 billion during the same period.

According to the study the need for diversified water sources are considered the major challenge confronting agricultural production in the Arab Gulf states. The scarcity of arable land, the harsh climate and organisational problems were also cited as obstacles.

Recommendations based on the study also included the continued support for agricultural projects in the Gulf area in an effort to increase and stabilise the income of farmers and to attract investors to this sector.

Charity committee helps 230 needy families

THE deputy chairman of the alms and charity committee at Al Othman Mosque, Yahya Abdul Hadi said the committee was established in 1973 and that material and financial support was meagre at the time but soon began to increase with the increase of the committee's activities.

He said the committee paid a total of KD 15,000 to KD 20,000 per month as assistance of nearly 230 needy families, and that a good number of families stopped receiving financial aid after their income had started to improve and their straitened circumstances ended.

He said that the committee also contributed financial and moral support to all charity projects and rendered generous support to the provision of education to orphans and catering to all their needs.

Education

He pointed out that during the holy month of Ramadan the committee would receive material and financial donations from the Asr prayer time until after the Taraweeh prayers, and that the committee would accept alms and donations made in the form of clothing and foodstuffs.

He also said that the committee did a great deal to disseminate Islamic education among

families through the distribution of leaflets, cassettes and books.

He urged all donors to step up their contributions during Ramadan, pointing out that the committee sent lorries to Jordan, Sudan and Afghanistan last year, as part of its external activity programme.

Donations

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Bayan and Misbri charity committee, Saud Abdul Rahman Al Samakeh, said that the committee was established in 1982 and had been practising its activities from Maryam Al Sabah Mosque.

He said that the committee received donations daily between Maghreb and Isba prayers at Fatima Mosque in Bayan, and that all donations would be used to support charity welfare movements in and outside Kuwait.

He said that committee had so far distributed a total of KD 43,145 this year to 26 needy students, poor patients and others.

He said that a total of KD 40,959,445 were distributed among Islamic societies, local and international, to help fund Islamic and human causes and that a total of KD 2,800 was given as loans to the needy.

Islamic group condemns Israel for assassination of Al Wazir

UNITED NATIONS, April 22. (Reuters) Diplomats from the Organisation of Islamic Conference condemned Israel for the assassination in Tunis of Palestinian commander leader Khalil Al Wazir.

closed-door meeting said the group "strongly condemned this heinous Israeli terrorist act of aggression against Tunisia," last Saturday.

It expressed solidarity with Tunisia and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, of which Al Wazir was military commander, and noted the assassination coincided with Israel's "ongoing campaign of terror" against the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, the Makkah-based Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) called on Muslims throughout the world to support Afghan guerrillas and refugees in a struggle to regain their rights.

"The Afghan mujahideen are in dire need of this support from their Muslim brothers now more than ever, before it is too late," the Press Agency (SPA) on Thursday quoted ICO Secretary-General Abdullah Naseef as saying.

The Soviet Union has signed an agreement to begin withdrawing an estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan beginning May 15, ending a nine-year occupation.

The ICO groups more than 40 Islamic countries.

Yugoslav cultural week

BELGRADE, April 22. (Kuaa) Yugoslavia will hold a touristic and cultural week in Kuwait later in May which will include folkloric shows and a touristic exhibition.

The week will also encompass a Yugoslav food fair, scheduled to be held at the Hilton Hotel.

The Yugoslav delegation will arrive here on May 27.

US naval officers in Gulf review battle data

ABOARD THE USS JACK WILLIAMS IN THE GULF.

April 22. (Reuters) Senior US naval officers on Wednesday reviewed technical data from Monday's missile mini-war with Iran as the search continued for a missing Cobra attack helicopter.

Naval officials denied Iran's claim the marine helicopter, the third lost by US forces in the Gulf since last July when Washington began naval escorts for 11 refuelled oil tankers, had been shot down.

Clean up after Monday's fighting was interrupted briefly at midmorning, when the ship's crew detected a radar signal that could have come from a missile's target location system.

Naval officials said two other ships in the same squadron also picked up the signal, but no missile was sighted.

Confusion

The general alarm came as confusion continued over Iran's apparent launching of Chinese-made Silkworm anti-ship missiles.

All of the missiles went awry, their radar guidance systems confused by showers of aluminium chaff fired into the air by the American ships. Four went into

thesea and one skimmed beyond the Williams stern and struck an oil rig.

Officers aboard the Williams on Wednesday declined to comment on reports from Washington that quoted lawmakers and senior officials expressing doubt Iran fired Silkworm missiles at the frigate and its accompanying destroyers.

Warned

But others on board were more adamant.

Several sailors said they saw one of the missiles — a bright orange flame, moving toward the Williams.

"I saw it and then threw myself into the sea," by the flight deck,

said Lieutenant John Maraldo, 32, a helicopter pilot.

Petty officer 2nd class Dennis Raps, 33, said he grabbed an M-60 machine gun and fired at the missile.

"I did it to save the ship," said Raps.

Later in the day, the Williams warned off an Iranian C-130 aircraft, whose pilot first ignored the ship's warning before answering, "We are an Iranian warplane, doing our duty."

An unidentified English then said: "Marry, do your duty."

The C-130 then landed at Iran's Abu Musa Island without incident.

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Iranian allegations against Kuwait

TUNIS, April 22. (Kuaa) Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi on Thursday said the concocted Iranian allegations against Kuwait aim at justifying the Iranian defeats during the last few days.

In a cable to Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Klibi said the Iranian claims fall within the propaganda campaign against Kuwait and Arab countries.

Pointing out that the Arab countries stressed full support to Kuwait, in the Fifth Summit Conference, he said the Arab League is much concerned with the Iranian threats against Kuwait.

Earlier, Sheikh Sabah sent a cable to the Arab League Secretary-General regarding the Iranian claims which said that Kuwait used Bubyar Island for military operations in favour of Iraq.

King Fahd phones Arab leaders

RIYADH, April 22. (Kuaa) King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia last night had telephoned conversations with two Arab monarchs and a head of state to what Radio Riyadh described as part of continuous consultations between the Saudi King and Arab leaders.

King Fahd initiated the calls with King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Bin Jedd. He was later reached over the telephone by King Hussein of Jordan.

The government-controlled Radio Riyadh said King Fahd discussed with the three Arab leaders "matters of interest to the Arab and Islamic world" and ways to strengthen fraternal ties between Arab countries. The broadcast gave no further details.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

CRITICS are the men who have failed in literature and art—Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman (1804-1881).

OPINION

Defeat plagues Iranian rulers

DEFEAT and catastrophe continue to plague the Iranian rulers as they unwillingly submitted to Iraq's decision to stop the war of cities.

They are the aggressors, and even Russia, which has remained flexible with Iran, has given the impression in its latest communiqué that Iran should accept peace and stop disrupting world peace.

The impact of Iran's actions have been felt almost everywhere because some people benefitted from not imposing discipline on the Iranian political leadership.

The Iraq-Iran war is not simply a war between two countries.

The war between Iraq and Iran is a war of the whole world. This must be accepted by the superpowers. It is inaccurate to believe that this war is limited to one region. Its sparks are flying and they increase, but still Iran has not been dealt the blow that will awaken it.

Perhaps what happened on the Faw peninsula and the "war of the cities" might have slightly awakened the Iranian leadership. It might have also awakened the Iranian people to try the criminals of war who have mismanaged Iranian politics and have disrupted the whole world.

The liberation of Faw, the latest American attacks, the failure of the Iranian agents, the hijackers, in the mission with the Kuwaiti airliner and the recent Soviet attitude toward the war of the cities should shake the Iranian internal situation.

The Iranian leaders have cheated the Iranian people for eight years; lying to them and pushing them into a destructive war, claiming false victories.

The Iranian international position, in the face of these defeats and lies, is unable to continue as before, although it is terrorised by the regime.

The internal situation in Iran is on the verge of an explosion. It is ready to avenge the failures of its leadership, which is responsible for so many of Iran's catastrophes.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Widows and daughters replace once-powerful leaders

Women pick up political mantle in South Asia



Khaleda Zia



Sheikh Hasina



Benazir Bhutto



Maneka Gandhi



Indira Gandhi



Sirimavo Bandaranaike

By Earleen Fisher

NEW DELHI, (AP): The scene has been replayed time after time on the Asian subcontinent: the powerful leader falls, sometimes to an assassin's bullet. Beside the body stands the grieving wife or daughter.

Then, tears brushed away and replaced by steely determination, she picks up the mantle of power — this is a part of the world where many women still are sold into marriages or brothels, cast aside for failing to produce sons or consigned to lives of serving men.

Power

In the past three decades, several top women political leaders have emerged in this way:

● The late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, rivaled by few men anywhere in the world for iron will and her indelible stamp on her nation.

● Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, the world's first woman prime minister and a strong contender to govern her nation once again.

● Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, head of the most visible opposition force confronting President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

● Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh, leaders of the longest sustained opposition protests against any leader of their corrupt country.

Each of them has handled power skillfully, although some — notably Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Bandaranaike — were doomed by their excesses. But not one of them could be considered a feminist.

Intent on attaining or keeping power, they had little time for women's causes, and the fundamental status of women in their countries remains largely unchanged. Each of them swore, at least initially, to uphold the ideals of her late father or husband.

"The people feel that the wife is the best to carry on," Mrs Bandaranaike said in an interview in the colonnaded home in Colombo where prime minister S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike was gunned down by a Buddhist monk in 1959.

"They trust the wife to carry on the husband's policies more than anyone else," the 72-year-old Mrs Bandaranaike said, adding that "there is a certain amount of sympathy for the widow. You can't deny that also helps."

Shambles

In Mrs Bandaranaike's case her husband's Sri Lanka Freedom Party was in shambles after his death. The party's men squabbled for nearly a year, then enlisted her to restore unity. She served as prime minister from 1960-65 and again from 1970-77, when voters rebelled against tight economic controls that banned most imports and saw people standing in line for bread.

Older and wiser, Mrs Bandaranaike is ready for office again, and political analysts say she has a good chance of winning elections scheduled for 1989.

President Junius R. Jayewardene, who defeated Mrs Bandaranaike in 1977, replaced the parliamentary system with a presidential one and is barred from seeking another term. His United National Party is under

attack for failing to end a four-year war by Tamil guerrillas against the Sinhalese ethnic majority.

Mrs Bandaranaike, like the region's other powerful women, said her sex has not been an issue. Despite being second-class citizens in most South Asian societies, women have a "market value in the political arena," said Ashis Nandy of New Delhi's Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

Matriarchy

"I think there is a very strong substrata of matriarchy in the society," he said. It is a cultural phenomenon that transcends the region's dominant religions: Hinduism in India, Buddhism in Sri Lanka and Islam in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"Traditionally, in all these societies, femininity has been associated with activism and power," said Nandy, who trained as a clinical psychologist before entering political science.

He noted that Hinduism's female deities invoke greater fear than male deities. Paintings of Krishna and other gods have a gentle, almost androgynous quality, while Kali, goddess of destruction, is drenched in blood with human heads banding from her waist — and is unmistakably female.

"The king of the gods is a man, but the crucial, powerful gods relevant to everyday life are women," Nandy said. "Pestilence, health, child care, fertility: these are goddesses."

Indira Gandhi, daughter of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was known as "Bharat Mata" — mother of India. She was loved, hated,

feared, but above all respected. She abolished the princely estates of the Maharajahs, intervened in Pakistan's civil war to create the new nation of Bangladesh in 1971 and led India into the nuclear age.

Mrs Gandhi was installed as prime minister in 1966 by men who thought she would be pliable. She soon proved them wrong and stayed in office until a crushing election defeat in 1977 when democracy was restored after 20 months of heavy-handed emergency rule. But she rebounded back into office in 1980 and served four more years before she was assassinated by Sikh bodyguards.

"I think being a woman in politics is an asset in India," said Maneka Gandhi, widow of India's younger son Sanjay and political foe of the older son, current Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"We treat our country as very feminine — mother earth. Of course, I do tend to be patronised. But it's not because I'm a woman but because I'm 31," she said.

"I think most women in this part of the world come in politics because of family," Maneka said. "But whether they are successful or not really depends on their own qualities."

In Bangladesh, the two major opposition parties trying to force President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to resign are headed by women — Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League and Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Hasina, daughter of assassinated President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was tutored in politics

from childhood, but Mrs Zia sought a political role only after her husband, President Ziaur Rahman, was assassinated.

Both Hasina and Mrs Zia were installed as party leaders by male politicians who needed someone who could unite the ranks by invoking memories of once-popular presidents.

Strengths

Hasina, in an interview in the house where her father, mother and three brothers were gunned down in 1975, said she believed women leaders have strengths sometimes lacking in men.

"They don't corrupt very quickly. They can sacrifice more. They are very organised. Women are mothers. They preserve. They nurse," said Hasina, 40-year-old mother of two teenagers and wife of atomic scientist Wajed Miah.

The 43-year-old Mrs Zia, whose husband was killed in 1981, says she sees "no difference between men and women." But she added that if her husband had lived, "there would have been no need for me to be involved in politics."

Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto had brothers who also were active in politics, but Benazir emerged as the foremost heir of the Pakistan Peoples' Party after the 1977 overthrow and subsequent execution of her father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Returning home from self-imposed exile in 1986, Benazir was hailed by adoring masses who thought Bhutto's daughter would lead a "people's power" revolution — like the one ignited in the Philippines by President Corazon Aquino, widow of a

slain opposition leader.

Two years later, Benazir — recently married to wealthy businessman-politician Asif Zardari — heads a party wracked by in-fighting among functionaries who accuse her of being dictatorial and abusive.

"I may by my personality overshadow many events," Benazir, 34, said in a recent interview with one of India's national newspapers, the Indian Express.

She also said that before she returned home, someone told her that politics was "a very dirty game" for a woman.

"I said, don't you worry. I will face everything," she replied. Although women have reached the top echelons of power in the subcontinent, only India routinely places some women in the lower and middle levels of government.

Krishna Sahi, one of seven women in India's 63-member council of ministers, a sort of expanded cabinet, believes women always played a big role in decision-making in India. "It was often from behind the curtain," she said.

Now, she said, "awareness has come into women... they are getting rid of the oppression." In south India, the death last January of movie star-politician M. G. Ramachandran, the leader of Tamil Nadu state, sparked a fierce battle for succession between two women: His 64-year-old widow and his 39-year-old close companion of the last decade.

The squabble between Janaki Ramachandran, the widow, and Jayalalitha, who co-starred with Ramachandran in 25 movies, is still going on.

Japan's Red Army steps up activity

By K.P. Hong

TOKYO, (AP): Experts on Japan's terrorist Red Army said Saturday that the small but vicious leftist hand is stepping up its activities with funds and supplies provided by radical leftist groups.

On Tuesday, police in the United States arrested a suspected member of the Red Army carrying three homemade bombs. In Italy, a well-known Red Army member is being sought on suspicion of planting a car bomb that killed an American servicewoman and four Italians in Naples on Thursday.

The Red Army was active in the 1970s after an estimated 30 members fled to the Middle East, calling it the centre of world revolution.

Their attacks included a massacre at Tel Aviv's Lod Airport in Israel in 1972 that left 28 people dead. Before last week's violence, the bank most recently claimed responsibility for bomb and rocket attacks on the US and British embassies in Rome.

No one was injured in those attacks, which took place in Rome on June 9, 1987 while the leaders of seven Western nations were holding their annual summit in Venice.

Attacks

Police officials would not comment on local news reports that the Red Army was feared to be planning attacks on the summit of the advanced industrial nations in Toronto in June and the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul in September.

But Akio Ohno, a veteran police critic, said the summit and the Olympic Games would be two possible targets.

"The Red Army has openly criticised the South Korean government for its pro-American stance, and it maintains that its ultimate goal is a world revolution to destroy capitalism," Ohno said.

Expand

Ohno said the Red Army is now believed to work with Arab leftists and is led by Fusako Shigenobu, a college dropout who once worked as a Tokyo bar hostess to raise Red Army funds.

Naples police said Saturday that Shigenobu is suspected of helping plant the bomb at the US club that killed five people Thursday. She also has been identified as a key figure in the Lod massacre.

Another police critic, Ro Takemura, 35, in New Jersey might well suggest that the Red Army is trying to expand its operations to the United States.

"They have the talent. I believe Kikumura himself made three bombs he was carrying," Takemura told the Associated Press.

Ohno said the arrest last fall of Osamu Maruoka, 37, who had been on the international wanted list for alleged involvement in the Lod massacre, was another indication the group might have planned attacks on South Korean targets, possibly including Olympic facilities, to dramatise its activity.

Maruoka, considered by police as the No. 2 Red Army leader, was arrested Nov 21 in Tokyo after arriving on a flight from Hong Kong with a false passport.

Seized

Subsequent police investigations showed Maruoka had reserved a one-way ticket to Seoul the following month.

At Lod Airport on May 30, 1972, Kozo Okamoto, then 24, Tsuyoshi Okudaira, 26, and Yasuyuki Yasuda, 25, sprayed machine gun fire and hurled hand grenades into the airport's crowded luggage collection area.

In addition to 26 civilian victims, Okudaira and Yasuda were killed. Okamoto was seized by Israeli security officers.

Okamoto was among 1,100 Palestinian and other prisoners freed by Israel as part of an exchange for Israeli soldiers in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 1985.

Okudaira's younger brother, Junzo, now being sought in Italy for the car-bomb attack Thursday, first joined the Red Army in the Middle East in 1974 after slipping out of Japan with a false passport.

The younger Okudaira allegedly joined in an attack on the French embassy at the Hague later in 1974 and an attack on the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur in 1975.

He was arrested in Jordan in 1976 on charges of possessing a false passport and deported to Japan, but was freed in 1977 when the Red Army hijacked a Japan Air Lines jet in Bangladesh demanding his release.

The Red Army had no more than 300 members at its peak following its formation in 1968, according to police estimates. Following police crackdowns later in the 1960s, about 30 members slipped out of Japan to operate abroad.



By Patrick Moser

ASMARA, Ethiopia, (UPI): Already struggling against a seemingly endless cycle of drought and famine, Ethiopia is spending much of its meagre resources on fighting bloody civil wars it is unlikely to win.

Both war and hunger appear to be becoming worse. A sharp deterioration in the security over the past few months has seriously affected relief operations.

"Since October, the rebels have been punishing the government like the Viet Cong did to the Americans and like the Afghans are doing to the Soviets," a Western diplomat said.

The northern Tigrayan and Eritrean rebels launched their highest offensive since 1985, attacking vehicle convoys, key towns, strategic installations and government divisions.

In March, rebels of the Tigrayan Peoples' Liberation Front, or TPLF, captured several towns and took a vital transmitter station. Unable to recapture it, the authorities reportedly bombed it to stop the rebels from using it for their own communications.

Most roads in Tigray are closed following multiple rebel attacks on Army and civilian vehicles.

Smashed

In neighbouring Eritrea, insurgents of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, or EPLF, claimed in late March they had smashed three government divisions and captured two Soviet officers after weeks of fierce fighting around the town of Akor-

War and hunger haunt Ethiopia

dat, 80 miles (130 km) northwest of Asmara.

A few days earlier, Osman Ali — who walked 40 miles (65 km) from his native village of Mansura to collect relief food in Akordat — confirmed rebels were near the town.

"There is no peace in our village," he said. "There is a bad conflict. Many people have been killed."

But, answering questions put through an official government translator, he said he did not know who had killed the villagers or who the combatants were.

The Eritrean conflict, which started 26 years ago, is the longest-running war in the world. A diplomat described the EPLF as "the best guerrilla Army in the world."

The EPLF has an estimated 25,000 motivated, well-trained and well-armed fighters. They draw support from several Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, but they also obtain much of their equipment from attacks on government troops. Thus the EPLF uses much the same equipment as the regulars — T-55 tanks, 40mm anti-aircraft guns and AK-47 Kalashnikov assault rifles.

The 10,000-strong TPLF does not have any heavy artillery. The Tigrayan rebels use only light weapons which can be transported easily over the rugged mountainous terrain where the insur-

gents operate.

The two rebel movements face an estimated 150,000 troops — about half the total strength of Ethiopia's Army, the largest standing military force in black Africa.

"That is not enough for definitive superiority given the terrain and the nature of the fighting," said a Western diplomat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital.

Diplomats say the Army is vastly overstretched, fighting 11 separate rebel movements throughout the country.

"The government is taking a heavy beating and being bled to death," one said. "The impact on morale is considerable as a result."

Western analysts say the government, worried by large losses among its troops, is no longer sending trained regulars to the front. Instead, young conscripts with at least two months training are sent to fight.

Fodder

"They are just used as cannon fodder," said one diplomat.

"The government cannot win the war in Tigray and definitely not in Eritrea," he said, reflecting the view of many Western analysts.

"We told them that 12 years ago when they asked us for military equipment to fight the Eritrean war," a Western diplomat said. "They simply switched to the Soviet Union."

Mystery of missing Taiwan nuclear scientist

By Dan Biers

TAIPEI, Taiwan, (AP): The disappearance of a leading nuclear scientist has Taiwanese fuming at the United States and worrying about damage to their national security.

After Col Chang Hsien-Yi vanished in mid-January, newspapers carried unconfirmed reports that he worked for the US Central Intelligence Agency and might have turned over nuclear secrets to the Americans.

Chang was a deputy director of the official Institute of Nuclear Energy Research. He disappeared while on leave from his post.

"We immediately looked at this man, maybe he fell off a cliff," said Liu Kuang-Chi, secretary-general of the government Atomic Energy Council, as he moved to an office wall map of Taiwan and traced a route along rugged interior roads.

But several local newspapers provided a different scenario for Chang's disappearance, reporting that he was a CIA informant who left for the United States, with details about a Taiwanese nuclear weapons programme.

A US State Department spokeswoman, Phyllis E. Oakley, said in Washington last month that the department had no comment on whether Chang was an informant for the United States.

In Taipei, David Hess, spokesman for the American Institute of Taiwan, which oversees US interests here, has told the government and local media the institute has no idea of what happened to Chang.

Taiwan officials have repeatedly denied plans to build a nuclear bomb. Communist China has said the production of atomic weapons by Taiwan would be reason to invade the island, which Beijing regards as a renegade province.

Nevertheless, the uproar over Chang has increased anti-US sentiment that already was brewing here because of Washington's tough trade talks with Taiwan, which last year had a record \$16-billion trade surplus with the United States.

Although the United States in 1979 broke diplomatic relations with Taiwan and recognised the communist Chinese government, Washington remains the island's major trade partner and arms supplier. The American Institute of Taiwan serves as an operative diplomatic and commercial link in the absence of an embassy.

"I get a lot of hot reaction from my students," said Su Chi, a

member of the Institute of International Relations who also teaches at National Chengchi University. "Until this point there's always been a huge reservoir of goodwill toward the United States... but I think the reservoir has cracked."

The Taiwan media, which has given intense coverage to Chang's disappearance, also has criticised the United States.

A March 23 commentary in the mass-circulation China Times said that no matter what the motive, "the act of stealing our defence secrets has invaded our national sovereignty and respect to a certain degree... no one can interpret this as friendly behaviour."

Taiwan officials now believe Chang is in Washington. They have asked the United States for information about him but the US government claims it does not know his whereabouts.

Deputy Foreign Minister John Chang recently said Taiwan cannot lodge a protest with the United States because "we don't have evidence showing US government or CIA involvement."

But Jaw Shau-Kong, a maverick lawmaker from the governing Nationalist Party, is demanding retaliatory action.

The government "probably should expel some (US) diplomats from Taiwan, expel some CIA; it cannot keep silent," said Jaw, who views the United States as an imperialist nation.

Jaw said he fears Chang took important military secrets, possibly classified information about Taiwan's missile development programme.

Liu, the nuclear energy official, noted that many of Chang's classmates worked on missile and airplane projects at the military-run Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology.

The government maintains, however, Chang did not take any sensitive information from Chungshan. Liu believes the missing scientist did not have access to such secrets even though he knew of work done by the Nuclear Energy Research Centre staff for military-related Chungshan projects.

Professor Su believes Chang's disappearance is unlikely to cause a serious re-evaluation of Taiwanese-US relations but could eventually lead to public debate of the country's nuclear policy.

In early April, the mass-circulation United Daily News newspaper published a poll that indicated Taiwan was split over the development of nuclear weapons.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1533 — Catholic church inquiry declares marriage of Catherine of Aragon to England's King Henry VIII void.
- 1621 — Protestant union in Germany is dissolved.
- 1633 — South German Protestants sign League of Heilbronn with Sweden and France for mutual support against imperialists and Catholic league.
- 1795 — Warren Hastings, former British governor-general of India, is acquitted of high treason.
- 1873 — Ashanti war breaks out in Africa: Dutch war against Sultan of Aceh in northwest Sumatra, Indonesia, begins.
- 1895 — Russia, France and Germany protest against cession of Chinese territory to Japan.
- 1904 — United States acquires property of French Panama Canal Company.
- 1935 — Poland's constitution is adopted after nine years of discussions.
- 1938 — Sudeten Germans demand full autonomy.
- 1945 — Allied troops reach River Po in Italy in World War II.
- 1945 — US and Soviet forces meet at Torgau in eastern Germany.
- 1946 — France's President Charles de Gaulle emphasizes his opposition to US Asian policies by withdrawing French units from naval manoeuvres held by Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.
- 1972 — Two US Apollo 16 astronauts blast off from moon and begin command ship for journey back to earth.
- 1975 — South Vietnam's cabinet resigns as panic grips Saigon and US President Gerald Ford declares that Vietnam war is over.
- 1986 — White-led South African government commits itself to scrapping dozens of laws restricting movements of blacks.
- 1987 — About 700 students hurl firebombs and stones at police in clashes at Seoul, Korea, National University in protests against government.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
"The Islamic Heritage of Spain" is open daily from 10 am to 1 pm and 7 to 10 pm at the Sultan Gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St.

SOCIAL

Kumustahan
The next Filipino get-together (Kumustahan) will be held from 6 to 9 pm on April 29 at the Church Hall. All Filipinos are welcome. Snacks will be served.

THEATRE

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance
The company will present two ballets "Carnival" and "The Never Ending Story" from April 25 to 29, 8.30 pm, nightly, at the Mousetrap Theatre, NES, Jabriya. Tickets KD 4. The box office at the Mousetrap is open daily from 4 to 7 pm. For telephone bookings ring 5610673, 8 am to 1 pm.

LECTURE

YMCA Holiday Special
The Young Men's Cricket Association (YMCA) will hold the Holiday Special on May 17, Messiah Beach Hotel. Highlights are music by Top Ranks with special competitions such as Made for Each Other contest and Funky King and Queen. For reservations contact Lancy — 4814914, 9 am to 4 pm. 3981790; 3929518, 5 to 8 pm.

SPORTS

Palarong Filipino
The slogan for this year's Filipino Mini-Olympics is "Batakan Ng Buto '88." To avoid inconvenience at the start of the mini-Olympics on May 17 at the Keifan Stadium, Kapilku urges all Filipinos to get their 1988 ID cards available from the Philippines embassy and Mabuhay Restaurant.

A meeting of all tennis participants will be held on April 28, 6 pm, at Mabuhay Restaurant. For details contact Bong Melencio - 4877793.

Raft Race
The captains' meeting for the second Kuwait Annual Raft Race will be held on Tuesday, April 26, at 4 pm in Al Reef Suite, Messiah Beach Hotel. Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club
Club shirts, as ordered, now available from Jon Evans. Tel: 5339867, to arrange delivery. The Club's A.G.M. is on Tuesday, May 10, 7.30 pm at the Gazelle Club.

Goan Cup Tournament
The Young Goans Association, Kuwait, will hold a seven-a-side football tournament on the first day of Eid Al Fitr at the Al Sour Grounds. The draw will be held on the same day at 7.30 am. Tournament commences at 7.45 A. The tournament is open to all communities, subject to approval by organisers. For details contact Tom — 2419409; Almeida-4813892 ext. 232.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers special Ramadan buffets with Arabic and Continental buffets after sunset until 2 am. Sample Oriental delicacies including fufu and fufu at the Ramadan Diwaniya for breakfast (ifan).

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Ice Pirates
Starring: Mary Cosby

Al Sahmiya
Lalio
Starring: Robert Beltrair

Al Hamra
Baab Nasar (Arabic)
Starring: Basi, Magdi Wahba, Najwa Fuad

Drive-In
Hikayat Nus Million Dinar (Arabic)
Starring: Yahya Fakhrani, Iham Shahin

Al Firdous
Dard (Hindi)
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini

Fahadhel Open-Air
Shor (Hindi)
Starring: Manoj Kumar, Jaya Bhaduri

Al Fahadhel
Malayalam film

Al Jahra
Night Stick

Granada
Flash Point

Sulabikhat
Al Marat Wal Kanoon (Arabic)

Al Jleeb
Kafayrum Doorathu (Malayalam)

Ahmedi Drive-In
Brazil

TV CORNER

Local football

THE Amir's Cup football matches will be shown on KTV 2 daily, except Wednesday and Friday, at 8.45 pm. The news will be shown at an earlier time of 8.30 pm. Such regular features as the comedy Together We Stand (Sunday); Murder, She Wrote (Mondays); Twilight Zone (Tuesday); Sledge Hammer (Wednesdays); and The Beauty and the Beast (Friday) continue.

Among the films to be shown this week is A Time to Love And a Time to Die, featuring Jobo Gavin, Lilo Pulver and Agnes Windbeck. It is a dramatic love story set in World War II. A German soldier on furlough from battle falls in love, and inevitably, returns to the trenches.

American basketball, Italian soccer and Big League Soccer will be shown from 2 pm on Friday.

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY
8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 The Care Bears: cartoons
8.30 News in English
8.45 Football — The Amir's Cup: Al Salmiya vs Al Khaitan
10.30 The Flying Doctors: "Dreams of Sand." A garage owner abandons plans to leave town, and an old man is injured in a mining accident.
11.30 Together We Stand: Comedy. Starring: Elliott Gould, Dee Wallace, Katie O'Neill, Ke Huy Quain, Natasha Bobo and Scott Grimes.
12.00 Late Night Movie: Alamo: Western
1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

MONDAY
8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 Wildfire cartoon serial
8.30 News in English
8.45 Football: The Amir's Cup. The winner of Group B vs winner of Group G.
10.30 Murder, She Wrote: "Witness for the Defence." Jessica examines clues to the murder of her best friend in Canada, where she is visiting.
11.30 Survival: "Gallapagos: How They Got There?" A look at the formation of the Gallapagos islands.
12.00 Hanlon: "The Defence of Hugh Sweney." A man is accused of murder, on circumstantial evidence. Is he the real killer?
1.30 News in Brief
1.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

TUESDAY
8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 Pole Positions: cartoons
8.30 News in English
8.45 Football: The Amir's Cup: Kazema vs winner of Group D.
10.10 Leg Work: "Blind Trust." Claire's brother, a police officer, is working on a fraud case and gets into trouble.
10.30 Q.E.D.: Documentary
11.30 Twilight Zone: "Grace Note." The story of a woman who does not succeed in her singing career.
12.00 Feature Film: "Brotherly Love." Starring: John Hersch, Kyle Carlsoo. Thriller. The story of two, one is a police officer and other a criminal.
1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WEDNESDAY
8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 The Adventures of Gummi Bears: cartoons
8.30 Growing Pains
9.00 News in English
9.40 Islamic Horizon
9.50 Islam and Muslims Around the World
10.30 J.J. Starbuck: "Graveyard Shift." A woman is allegedly killed by her brother-in-law.
9.30 Wildlife on One: "Serpents, Swiftlets, and the Chasm of Gloom."
12.00 Sledge Hammer: Sledge's partner suffers shock and has temporary amnesia; Sledge pursues a forger.
12.30 Private Eye: Jack rescues a friend from the clutches of black-mailers.
1.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

KTV 1 weekly highlights

SUNDAY
2.00 On Ramadan: a talk on the holy month by Dr. Abdullah Shihata and Dr. Abdul Suboor Shihata.
3.35 Dukkan Al Duniya: daily serial. Starring: Muna Wasef, Mohammad Jiyana Eid.
7.00 Madinat Al Riyah: a daily serial for children, featuring Khalid Al Obaid, Abdul Rahman Al Aqal, Jassim Nabhan, Mohammad Jaber, Musabakat Ramadan: a quiz show hosted by Huda Hussain.
11.00 Iz'aj: local comedy, starring Ghanem Al Saleh, Zainab Dahi, Maryam Ghadban, Dawood Hussain.

MONDAY
2.00 Al Mantimid Bis Ibad: historical serial, starring Osama Al Mashioi, Nidal Al Ashgar, Mahmoud Saeed. Set in Aodalus, it recalls the history of that region during reign of Maumud.
5.30 Hadith Deem: religious talk by Sheikh Mutawali Al Sbarawi.
8.30 Quran and Science: "Alam Al-bahar." Part 3, hosted by Dr. Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim.
12.50 Hima Alal Hamish: Arabic play, starring Suad Abdul Rahman, Mohammad Hussein, Abdul Raheem, Jalal Kamil.

TUESDAY
From 1.10 to 11 pm, all daily regular features will be shown, followed at 12.50 am by the Made-for-TV movie, Qadiyat Al Asatiz, starring Hussein Yusuf, Firdous Abdul Hamid, Raswan Tawfiq and Ajlal Zaki. It is the story of two men

WEDNESDAY
7.45 With Students: a weekly quiz show for students.
8.30 Folklore: Prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Mutairi.
12.00 Thamao Al Khauf: daily serial, starring Noor Al Sbariif, Hala Fuad, Amina Rizk, Jariel Ratch.
1.00 Film Min Kitab: variety show, presented by Durriya Sharf Uddin. Tonight's guest is writer Sakina Fuad, who will talk about "Cloema and Literature."

THURSDAY
12.05 pm Noor Al Huda: Arabic serial. "Lahda Daifa" features Hussain Abideen, Amina Rizk

FRIDAY
10.30 Children's Magazine
12.20 Min Wahi Abi Dulamah: historical serial. Plus all daily regular features, followed by an Arabic play entitled Antahab Liroubak, featuring Hamdi Ahmad, Samab Anwar.

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The Randall in Together We Stand (clockwise) Elliott Gould, Katie O'Neill, Ke Huy Quain, Natasha Bobo, Scott Grimes, Dee Wallace Stone.

THURSDAY
8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 Centurions: cartoons
8.30 News in English
8.45 Football: The Amir's Cup
10.30 Spenser for Hire: "The Long Hunt." Spenser escorts Don to the Boston prison. Don's father asks Spenser to let his son go.
11.30 The Bill Cosby Show: "The Aodalusian Flu." The Huxtables have the flu; and Theo is in charge of the house.
10.30 Late Night Movie: "A Time to Love and a Time to Die." Starring: John Gavin, Lilo Pulver, Agnes Wodbeck, 1958. Dramatic love story set against the background of WW2. German soldier on furlough from battle falls in love, inevitably must return to the trenches.
1.30 News Summary
1.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY
1.45 Holy Quran
2.00 Basketball
3.45 Big League Soccer
4.45 Feature Film: Red Fury, featuring William Jordan, Catherine Cannon. A rancher faces problems after adopting a Red Indian boy.

6.30 Italian Soccer
8.10 Transformers: cartoons
8.30 Out of this World: "The Anniversary."
9.00 News in English
9.40 Islamic Horizon
9.50 Understanding Islam: local religious programme.

10.30 The Beauty and the Beast: "The Beast Within." During a strike a man is killed; witnesses refuse to testify in court.

11.30 227: "Fourth Time Around." Mary introduces two people; and just as quickly she tries to separate them.

12.00 Guinness Records: more world records are set in tonight's episode by daring young men and women.

12.30 The Wiseguy: "The Last Rites for Lucie." Winnie sees a psychiatrist to get over his guilt about betraying Sonny. Starring: Keo Wahl.

1.30 News Summary
1.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

1.45 Holy Quran
2.00 Basketball
3.45 Big League Soccer
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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

12.45 Holy Quran
1.00 Tan Tan: cartoons
1.23 World News via Satellite
1.55 Al Maotamid Bin Ibaad: historical serial.
3.35 Dukkan Al Duniya: local serial, featuring Muna Wasef, Mohammad Al Obaid, Maryam Al Ghadban.
4.31 Tazzawaj: Arabic comedy.
5.29 Hadith Deem: religious talk by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
6.33 The Story of Shahira: cartoons
6.43 After Ifhar
6.57 Madinat Al Riyah: children's serial, starring Khalid Al Obaid, Maryam Al Ghadban.
8.04 Noor Al Islam
8.53 Security and Citizens
9.20 Deirat Al Kbair: charity
9.36 Ramadan Coozest
10.00 News in Arabic
10.58 Iz'aj: local serial
11.45 Thaman Al Khauf: late night serial
12.38 Late Night Show with artist Karim Mahmoud
1.40 News Summary
1.52 Holy Quran/Closedown



The Wizard pays a visit to the family, tonight's episode of Alf, KTV 2.

KTV 2

8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 The Prophet's Sayings
8.18 Cartoons
8.30 News in English
8.45 Football: The Amir's Cup: Al Arabi Club vs Al Shahab.
10.45 Alf: I've Got A New Attitude. The Wizard pays a visit with Kate's mother, Dorothy.
11.08 The Spirit of Adventure: "Challenging Cbioa's longest River." Episode 2. An American group

journeys along a river the Yangtze.
12.05 Made-for-TV Movie: "Eye of the Sparrow." Starring: Mary Cunningham, Kate Carridine. The story of a blind couple who hope to have children of their own.
1.40 News in Brief
1.45 Magazine D'Actualite
1.50 Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

Morning
0800 Opening
0802 Songs and Music
0830 News
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Cultural Horizon
0930 Reggae Rock
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1030 The Years of Pop
1100 Closedown
1130 News on FM Service

FM Services

0800 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newswel
30 Personal View
45 Recording of the Week (ex 9th Grand National Preview)
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Juke Box Dury (ex 30th Andy Kershaw's World of Music)
45 Nature Notebook
0200 World News
09 Commentary
15 Network UK
30 People and Politics
45 Business Matters
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 Europe's World
45 Business Matters
0900 News
15 Here's Humphrey (ex 9th Grand National Preview)
45 Reflections

50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Personal View
45 The World Today
0600 Newsweek
30 Meridian
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 From the Weeklies
45 Network UK
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 A Jolly Good Show
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Personal View
1000 News Summary followed by Here's Humphrey
15 Letter from America
30 People and Politics
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Big Bands — The Singers
30 Meridian
1200 Radio Newswel
15 Multitrack 3
30 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Network UK
45 Sportsworld
1400 News Summary followed by Sportsworld contd.
1500 Radio Newswel
15 Sportsworld

NOTICE

The undermentioned personnel have left Al Mulla Group's employment:

Sr. No.	Name	Nationality	Passport No.
1.	Muawad Morsi Mohd Abdullah	Egyptian	977
2.	Asrar Ahmed Hashmi-Mufl Habib	Pakistani	A-181946
3.	Bahadur Singh	Indian	L586421
4.	Hassan Mohd Hayat	Pakistani	A 841336
5.	Poyatrukayil Mathew George	Indian	R 01050419

They are hereby requested to call at our Personnel Department for cancellation/transfer of their residence permits. The company will cancel their residence permits after 2 weeks from the date of this advertisement and will not be responsible for any legal aspects related to them.

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Faisal Al Anjari



Mohammed Al Dokhi



Sulaiman Al Mutairi

By Lima Al Khalafawi

KUWAITIS celebrated the release of the hijacked passengers by pouring into the streets, honking their horns, singing and shouting congratulations to the government.

Scenes reminiscent of Kuwait's National Day heralded the release and return of the hijacked passengers to Kuwait.

Flags were waved and patriotic songs blared from cars as they were driven bumper-to-bumper by jubilant drivers along the Gulf Road. And as if they were unable to contain their joy,

drivers jumped from their cars occasionally to dance in the street.

Men, women and children joined in the rejoicing, with many women visiting the homes of the released passengers to share their joy with the families. And one woman promised to slaughter 32 camels to celebrate the safe return of the hostages.

Kuwait TV and radio stations were deluged with calls from citizens wishing to express their happiness at the return of their Kuwaiti brothers and sisters or friends.

Some of those who went to the airport left so early that they

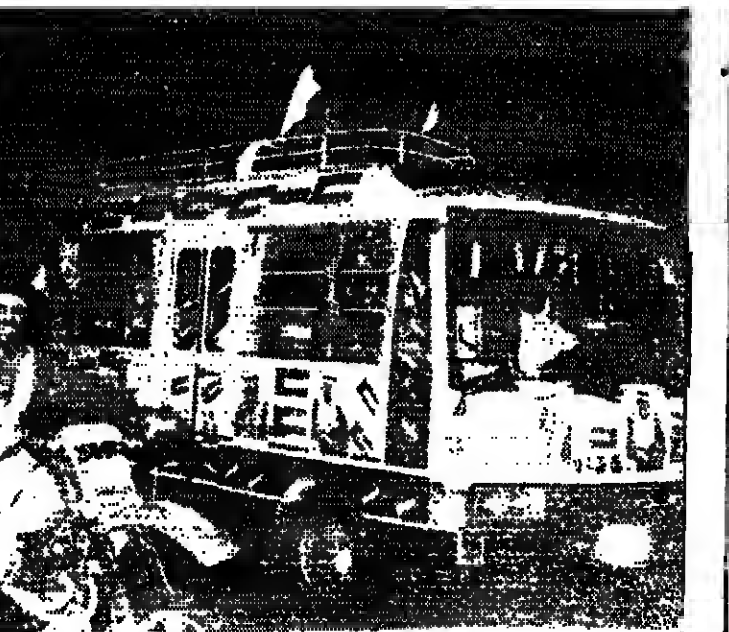
took their evening meal with them and could be seen eating sandwiches after sunset as they waited for the returning passengers.

Although some inconveniences were caused to drivers with long waits in traffic and overheating cars, no one seemed to mind.

Pictures show the rejoicing of released passengers being united with families and friends and jubilant citizens welcoming their return. Photos by: Saeed Al Khaldi, Javed Basra, Mohammed Bedaq and Mohammed Abbas.



Anwar (left) and Ebtesam Al Sabah



Hitting new notes on screen

By Robert Hall

THERE is only one thing a pop star likes to do more than sing and earn money ... and that's act.

They may have sold millions of records and have audiences of thousands at their concerts, but they will happily give it all up to get in front of the camera. And, as some of the world's most famous pop names have proved, it doesn't always result in the glittering success and fame they are used to.

Mick Jagger, David Bowie, Madonna, Sting, Diana Ross, David Essex and even Michael Jackson may be top of the pops, but their films have often left them top of the flops.

Only sensational Cher has made a really successful transition from singing to acting, closely followed by Barbra Streisand. Now they are as well known for starring in Hollywood as they are for singing the latest chart hit.

But that is certainly not the case for the majority of singers who act.

For the trend, which was started by the Beatles with *A Hard Day's Night*, has now become an established step. Twenty years ago each profession was totally separate. Now they are almost impossible to tell apart.

Veteran rocker Mick Jagger has had several attempts at finding acclaim on the screen. So far though, with movies like *Ned Kelly* and *Performance* under his belt, he seems to have

David Bowie and Mick Jagger have done it, so have Sting, Olivia Newton-John and David Essex. Barbra Streisand and Cher are well known for doing it. They are all singers who have turned to acting for a fresh challenge and a new career.

hit a wrong note.

He will be trying not to repeat that record with his next offering, which he is due to make with fellow popsters David Bowie and Tina Turner. The film — according to Hollywood rumour — will be called *Rocket Men* and Jagger and Bowie will both play nightclub owners.

A friend of Jagger's says: "Mick badly wants to be a top actor but his films have never really been a big success."

"David is constantly courted by top Hollywood directors. So Mick swallowed his pride and asked David to work with him. Tina is very close to them both so she was a natural choice."

According to Mick, he wanted to make another film with Bowie following the success of their *Dancing in the Streets* video.

He says: "David and I have written the script ourselves and now we're looking for the right director. We're both really pleased with it, and if it all goes according to plan, we should start filming sometime soon."

Mick admits that since he made his film debut in *Performance* with James Fox 18 years ago, his acting career has been "rather erratic."

"The trouble with films is

that it is hard finding great projects to do. There's a lot of good actors who have to do rubbish. I'm happy with the way things turned out."

David Bowie on the other hand, has enjoyed far greater success than his new acting partner. Early on his music and dress sense tended to limit his audience. But through acting, tackling tough roles from the Elephant Man on Broadway to a POW in *Merry Christmas* Mr Lawrence, he showed he was more than one of the world's most way-out singers, and the amazing silver figure in his debut movie *The Man Who Fell to Earth*.

Goody-goody beauty Olivia Newton-John, who sprang to Hollywood fame in the blockbuster movie *Grease*, has found her road to further stardom a little slipperier.

Along with John Travolta, she seemed to have the world at her feet after strutting and teasing her sexy stuff across the screen as Sandy.

In *Grease* alone she showed she could look like an angel and a siren.

But while Travolta went on to capture headlines as one of the few men — excluding Prince Charles — to dance with Princess Diana at a White House Banquet, Olivia's career went into an almost terminal slide.

Kanada, her next musical movie bombed badly and her singing career seemed to waver too. Instead she began to concentrate on her private life and became a mother with the help of her 28-year-old husband Matt Lattanzi.

"When *Two of a Kind* (Olivia's second film with John Travolta) didn't work out I went to Australia," she says. "I really needed time to think about what was important to me. I decided I had let my career control my personal life. I'm not going to let that happen again."

Now Olivia, 38, is enjoying motherhood, happy in the knowledge that she need never sing OR act again, anyway.

Superstar Barbra Streisand is famed for being the richest and most powerful entertainer in the world ... worth approximately 50 million pounds and another 20 million in real estate and antiques.

At 45 she reigns over a phenomenal one-woman empire as a singer, actress, writer, producer and director, keeping a pretty sharp eye on the petty cash. Professionally, as her hit album proved, she is an indestructible as ever ... well almost.

Even Barbra, with smash movies *Hello Dolly*, *Funny Girl* with Ryan O'Neal, and *The Way We Were* behind her isn't infallible. Her one, all-consuming passion in life had been to make and star in the film. *Yentl*. She did and it was a box office failure. It is perhaps the only blot on her otherwise impressive copybook.

Now she is the producer and star of the film *Nuts*, co-starring Richard Dreyfuss, in which she plays a prostitute.

Then she plans to film the play *The Heat* which deals with the problem of AIDS.

Indeed, with an Oscar and a Tony, a Grammy and an Emmy it is hard to know which came first for Barbra ... singing or acting.

That's certainly not a problem with Cher.

First she was Cher the singer, the other half of the singing partnership Sonny and Cher with his like *Little Man, I Got You Babe* and *All I Need Is You*.

Then, with films like *Silkwood*, *Mask* and *The Witches of Eastwick*, it was Cher the actress. Now she has a new film out called *Suspect* and the adventure comedy *Moonstruck*, in which she plays what she describes as a "grown up Cinderella."

Money has never been a problem for either Michael Jackson or Diana Ross. But finding success on screen certainly has.

Wacko Jacko has probably come closest, thanks to the amazing dance routines and special effects that he uses for



David Bowie in the film, *The Man Who Fell to Earth*.

his pop videos. In his big screen performance in *The Wiz*, however, there was little evidence of the Jackson magic.

Lovely Diana Ross — who definitely has the looks to make it as an actress — has had two attempts. First she starred in the moderately successful *Lady Sings the Blues*, then in *Mahogany*. Now she seems to have retired to singing.

Pop queen Madonna has enjoyed a little more success with her acting. When she made her debut in *Desperately Seeking Susan*, she was hailed as one of Hollywood's greatest new talents. With *Who's That Girl* and *Shanghai Surprise* quickly following, enthusiasm in her performances waned.

A similar fate seemed to befall rocker David Essex. The heart-throb sprang to the public's attention with films such as *That'll Be The Day* and *Stardust* in the early seventies. He was dubbed the latest sex symbol and was mobbed by thousands of girls.

These days he is working on different kinds of projects after playing Mr Christian in a London stage production of *Mutiny on the Bounty* to lukewarm reviews.

Since 1979 Sting, the former lead singer with the Police and now enjoying a successful solo career — has had varied acting experience.

He explains: "It was never my ambition, or even my wildest fantasy to become an actor. I fell into it by accident but, having got into it, I'm the sort of person who likes to excel at what I do."

Sting's first wife, Frances Tomelty, persuaded him to

audition for the Ace Face in Franc Roddam's *Quadrophenia*. From then on he was hooked.

In the same year, he landed a part in *Radio On* and subsequently appeared in films including *Brimstone and Treacle*, *Dave*, *The Bride and*, with Meryl Streep and Charles Dance, the much-praised *Pleanty*.

He adds: "When you've worked with Denholm Elliott, Joan Plowright and Meryl Streep that's the best training available. I've learned to act with the spotlight full on, and if I hadn't been adequate I'd have been eaten alive by those people."

"I'd like to see myself take more chances, but it is a very difficult leap to take. The acting world doesn't want you to do it. So you end up suspended above this chasm of disapproval. I'm trying to span it."

So, it seems, are many other rock stars.



Rock star Sting in *Brimstone and Treacle*. He has worked with Meryl Streep in *Pleanty*.

Billy Ocean tops US charts

NEW YORK, (AP): Billy Ocean stayed on for a second straight week at the top of the single pop record charts in the United States with his Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car.

Devil Inside carried Inxs up two notches to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart. Whitney Houston's Where Do Broken Hearts Go vaulted from sixth to third position.

Last week's number two hit, Michael Jackson's Man In The Mirror, toppled to fifth place, and Rick Astley's Never Gonna Give You Up nosedived from third to tenth.

This week's only newcomer to the ten top list was Pink Cadillac by Natalie Cole, up from 11th to 8th.

As for the country-and-western singles, K.T. Oslin's I'll Always Come Back was number one on the Cash Box magazine chart. Cry, Cry, Cry, by Highway 101 was second, and the Rodney Crowell-Rosanne Cash duet on It's Such a Small World was third.

The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car — Billy Ocean (Arista)
2. (4) Devil Inside — Inxs (Atlantic)
3. (6) Where Do Broken Hearts Go — Whitney Houston (Arista)
4. (5) Whipping Well — Terence Trent D'Arby (Columbia)
6. (7) Girlfriend — Pebbles (MCA)
7. (10) Angel — Aerosmith (Geffen)
8. (11) Pink Cadillac — Natalie Cole (EMI-Manhattan)
9. (9) Some Kind of Lover — Jody Watley (MCA)
10. (3) Never Gonna Give You Up — Rick Astley (RCA)

The ten top country-western singles as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) I'll Always Come Back — K.T. Oslin (RCA)
2. (3) Cry, Cry, Cry — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers)
3. (5) It's Such a Small World

— Rodney Crowell and Rosanne Cash (Columbia).

4. (2) I Wanna Dance With You — Eddie Rabbitt (RCA).

5. (6) I'm Gonna Get You — Eddy Raven (RCA).

6. (7) The Last Resort — T. Graham Brown (Capitol).

7. (9) Young Country — Hank Williams Jr. (Warner Brothers-Curb).

8. (8) Americana — Moe Bandy (Curb).

9. (12) Baby I'm Yours — Steve Wariner (MCA).

10. (11) Everybody's Sweetheart — Vince Gill (RCA).

In London, Heart by the British group Pet Shop Boys held the top spot for the second week running on a British top ten pop chart invaded by newcomers.

Theme From S Express by the S Express Trio arrived at second place from 22nd, displacing Drop The Bomb by Bros which had held the number two spot for three straight weeks.

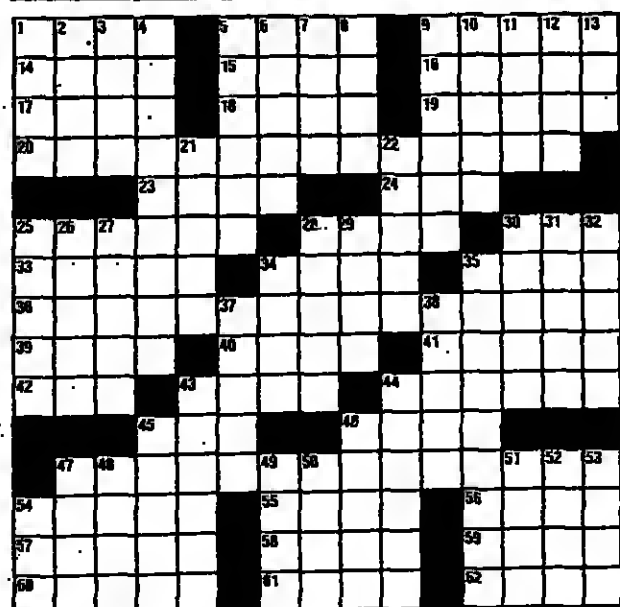
The veteran British group Fleetwood Mac moved up three notches to 5th place with Everywhere — one of only four records that survived from last week's top ten.

Natalie Cole went from 17th to 4th with Pink Cadillac, a 1970s Bruce Springsteen song. The British all-female group Bananarama came from 30th to 8th place.

The week's top 10 listings, as compiled by Melody Maker magazine, with last week's places in parentheses:

1. (1) Heart — Pet Shop Boys (Parlophone)
2. (22) Theme From S Express — S Express (Rhythm King)
3. (4) Love Changes Everything — Climie Fisher (EMI)
4. (17) Pink Cadillac — Natalie Cole (EMI-Manhattan)
5. (8) Everywhere — Fleetwood Mac (Warner Bros.)
6. (16) Who's Leaving Who — Hazell Dean (T.W.I.)
7. (14) Girlfriend — Pebbles (MCA)
8. (30) I Want You Back — Bananarama (London)
9. (-) I Want You Back, 88 — Michael Jackson and The Jackson Five (Motown)
10. (2) Drop The Bomb — Bros (CBS)

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Chicago area, with "The"
 - Roster
 - Impudent
 - Both: Praxix
 - Ona in arrears
 - Corporeal vessel
 - Reading, to Wilda
 - Karenina
 - Dating from birth
 - Vegas device
 - Discard
 - Moines
 - More recent
 - Run before a wind
 - Shrivel of the courts
 - Wading bird
 - Wood-splitting tool
 - Ballpark feature
 - Sincere appreciation
 - No ifs, — or buts
 - Poker player's stake
 - Shakespearean forest
 - Itinerary abbr.
 - MacDonald's co-star
 - Vituperative harangue
 - Uno plus dua
 - Indistinct
 - Stevanson classic
 - Ignores
 - Flipped mammal
 - Words of understanding
 - Enforcement group
 - Mademoiselle
- DOWN**
- Como is one
 - Muscat's land
 - Orchestral instrument
 - Architectural columns
 - Gadabout's cousin
 - Possessed
 - See to
 - Fine steed
 - Ostracized
 - Highways
 - Before fact or face
 - RBI's, e.g.
 - Nickname of a Shakespearean prince
 - Scarlett's love
 - Grown up
 - Hungarian composer
 - 007, for one
 - Commerce
 - Like some pretzels
 - Adorable
 - Himalayan raccoon
 - Inquired
 - Intervening, in law
 - Get better
 - Moving at a high speed
 - Grows pale
 - Salutes
 - Pencil's adjunct
 - Shadowed
 - Past or present
 - Washington portraitist
 - Part of TAE
 - Become oxidized
 - Like some cars
 - Depend on
 - Leaving port
 - Straight, at the bar
 - Streeter's "Mable"
 - Saratoga, a.g.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ETAL SMACK WHOM
BRNO KORAN HUGE
BETWEENWOFIRES
STERNWAY WASTES
AGED HART
KULTUR REBELLED
ABIELE BELL EIRE
DOIS FIREMEN BRA
TILLS LIDS ATION
STEPSONS SMEARS
RAKE SEAN
SAHARA SEATALES
PLAYINGWITRIFIRE
ETTE OPINIE LENA
DOIER SUMER YSER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
CAUGHT IN A VISE

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ K 8 3
♥ 10 4
♦ Q 8 5 4
♣ A 7 2

WEST EAST
♠ J 7 4 ♠ 10 9 6 2
♥ A J 9 5 3 2 ♥ Void
♦ K 10 ♦ J 7 3 2
♣ Q 8 ♣ K J 9 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 5
♥ K Q 8 7 6
♦ A 6
♣ 10 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT 2 ♥ 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♣

This is another hand from the Bermuda Regional, held at the end of January at the Southampton Princess hotel. The declarer was Andrew Gahrilovitch of Vienna, Va.

North-South would have done better to double two hearts, but North could not know that. In the partnership methods, his jump to three no trump denied a heart stopper.

West led his fourth-best heart, and dummy's ten won the trick as East signalled in clubs. Obviously,

the diamond suit would have to be developed if declarer was going to make his contract, so he continued with a diamond to the ace and a diamond back, noting with interest that West produced the ten on the first round of the suit.

West found the best defense, shifting to the queen of clubs. Declarer held up the ace for one round, then won the club continuation. A 4-2 diamond break was more likely than an even split, and West's ten on the first round of the suit strengthened that probability. Unless he was hiding rather brilliant by dropping the ten from a holding of K-10-x, the specific combination of K-J-10 was more odds-against than K-10 doubleton. Declarer, therefore, went for the endplay.

He came to hand with a high spade and led the king of hearts. West ducked (winning would have made no difference), and East had to let go of a black card to keep his diamond guard. Now declarer cashed his remaining high spades and then threw East in with a club. At the end, East had to lead away from his J-7 of diamonds into dummy's Q-9 tenace. That permitted declarer to get home with three spade tricks, two hearts, three diamond tricks and a club.



"You won't be gaining another daughter, you'll be losing a son."

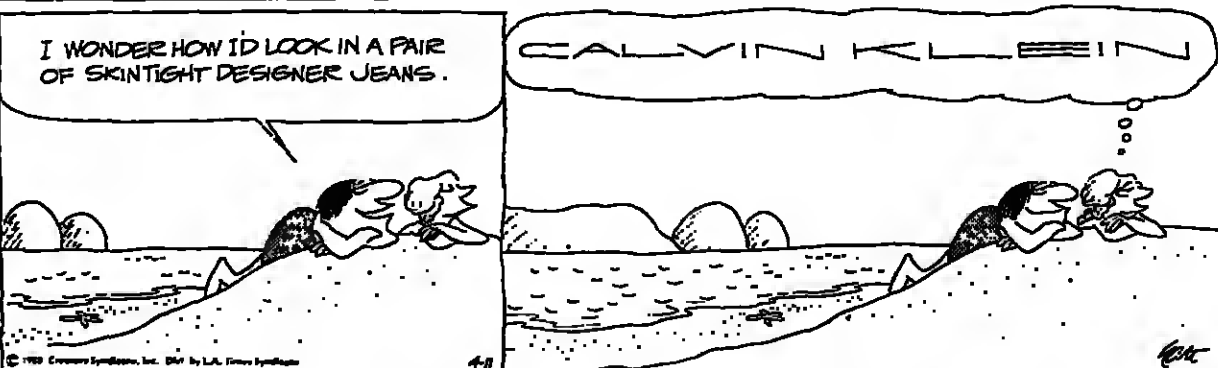
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You will not be quite sure of yourself but a friend will reassure you. You should take a good look at a road map before you set out. Do not become dejected about your deficiencies, try to cure them.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
This is quite an important day for you so be sure to be level-headed. If you are learning a new skill persist, do not give it up as being too difficult just yet. Eat well but not to excess. Be resilient.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
This is going to be quite a busy day for you, but there is no need to rush. You should concentrate on your personal affairs today. Make sure you do not eat too many sweets or savoury things. Be less hostile.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)**
You will have cause to be thankful and should not be too shy to say so. Do not buy a replacement unless and until you are sure it is the right size. Have a little more faith in yourself. Be thankful.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
Something you have been fearing might not now happen. Spend a little more time clearing and tidying up. Take better care of your health. Be helpful.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
The moon's less favourable influence will make you a little unsure of yourself. You should take care you do not lose your temper. Concentrate on essentials leaving details until later. Be tactful.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You must make sure you do not exaggerate or exceed limits of propriety. You should not allow your mood to distort your assessment of affairs. You should not insist on having the last word. Be consistent.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You will tend to be a little more clumsy today as the extra help of Mars's better influence will help you to face up to change. Avoid doing anything you believe is wrong. Be considerate.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
This will be an interesting day for you but you must not allow yourself to get preoccupied. You will be able to have a pleasant evening. Avoid going on a spending spree. Be cordial.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
The situation will take a turn for the better but caution is still needed. You will have good reason to be more optimistic but none to trust entirely to luck. Watch out for mistakes yours as well as people's.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
Mars's better influence will help you to act more decisively. Make sure you do not keep anyone waiting. Do not spend more than you can readily afford. Be more approachable.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
You will be able to do something you have long wished to do. Make sure you do not anything that your partner would not agree with. Think again before you do what you thought of doing.

ENTERTAINMENT

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

Special to the
Arab Times

Rumour — factories work overtime in filmland

Any news is good news in Bollywood

FILM stars and others in show business seem to be experts at getting into the news by hook or crook. First they talk about others and in turn they get talked-about. The print media then steps in to carry the opinions or happenings far and wide. Whether it is the truth, falsehood or half-truth, it doesn't seem to matter, as long as it's news. Here are some of the juicier rumours from Bollywood.

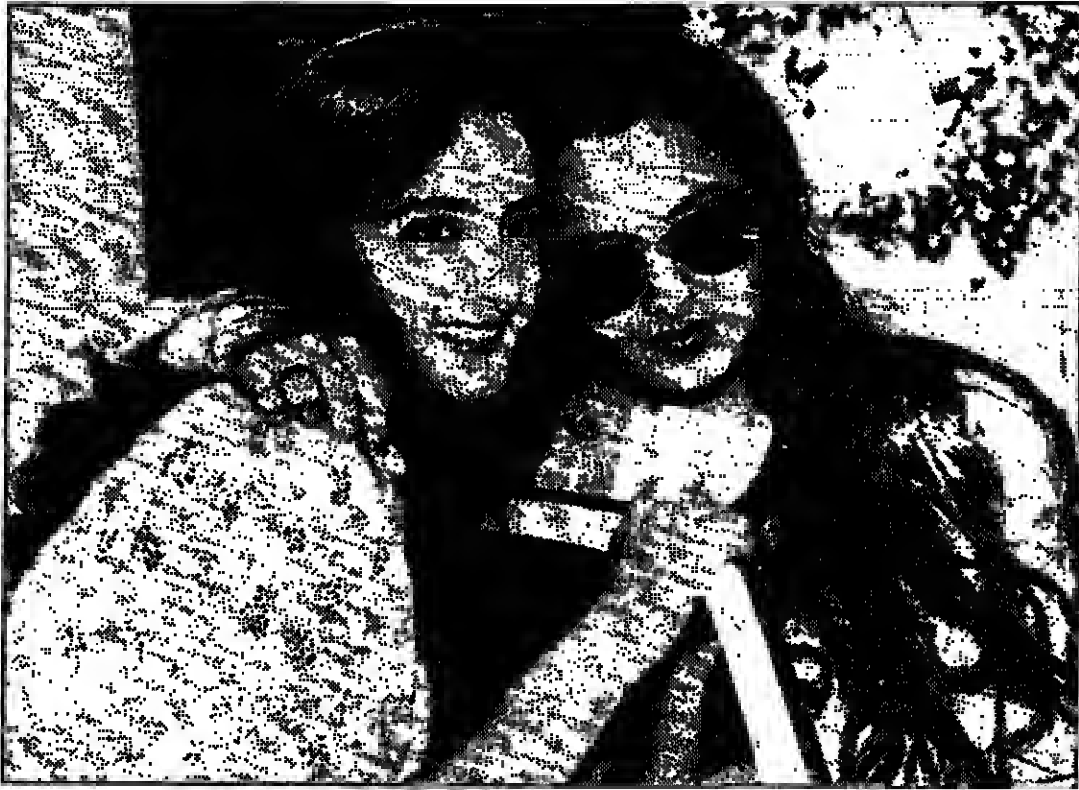
The wildest of the rumours pertain to Tinnu Anand. Now that Shahenshah has flopped and received brickbats for being a stale salad, Tinnu has been accused of deliberately making a bad film.

The story goes that he was handsomely enriched by the opposition parties to make a rotten film around a silly character, so that Amitabh's political image would crash and his public popularity would nose-dive. Well, all we can say is that Tinnu sure knows which side his bread is buttered and he prefers it on both sides!

Young, busy but sick-looking Govinda has dropped a bomb-shell by saying that Neelam is like his daughter. The two were supposed to be having a roaring affair. Why then this paternal affection? Obviously to hit the headlines and get quoted even in non-film magazines. Moreover he has other axes to grind with other heroines. And he can't openly ditch his first betrothed-cum-beloved Sumita. It would be bad for his image among female fans. Remember how Gaurav suffered.

Anil Kapoor has made a sensation not by signing more films but by giving up films and returning the money. He says that he wants to relax and do a few good films. We think he wants to get established as a solo hero and avoid being paired or grouped with other heroes. One who scares him like a ghost is Vinod Khanna followed by the mine-ghost Jackie Shroff.

Naseeruddin Shah has given up a big film like "Zameen"



Rekha (right) mothers younger heroines like Farha.

because he did not want to wear a wig. But the real reason is that the rejection brought him more publicity than the minor role in that multi-starrer could have done.

Amrita Singh can be blunt with anyone, even Amitabh Bachchan. Some time back she had the word spread around that she snubbed Bachchan who sent her a bouquet and wanted to visit her flat. But she is still doing many films with him. Now she claims that she can puncture Bachchan's ego. When he told her that a festival of their films including Mard was going to be held in a foreign country, she retorted with the wise-crack that it must be a children's festival. What we think is that Amrita is just putting up a false bold front and Amitabh is allowing her to be "democratic" because he finds Meenakshi too dull and timid.

Sai Paranjape has again announced her five-year plan to make an experiment, called "Prayog." It will be a romantic triangle with Dimple, Farouque and Naseeruddin, with the difference that one of the two men will be a robot (played by Naseer). We hate to say that it is just a sci-fi version of Sai's own Katha. And why did she quietly drop Shabana Azmi who was supposed to play the heroine? A busy and demanding heroine like Dimple will turn all of them into robots. And how will Sai fit her



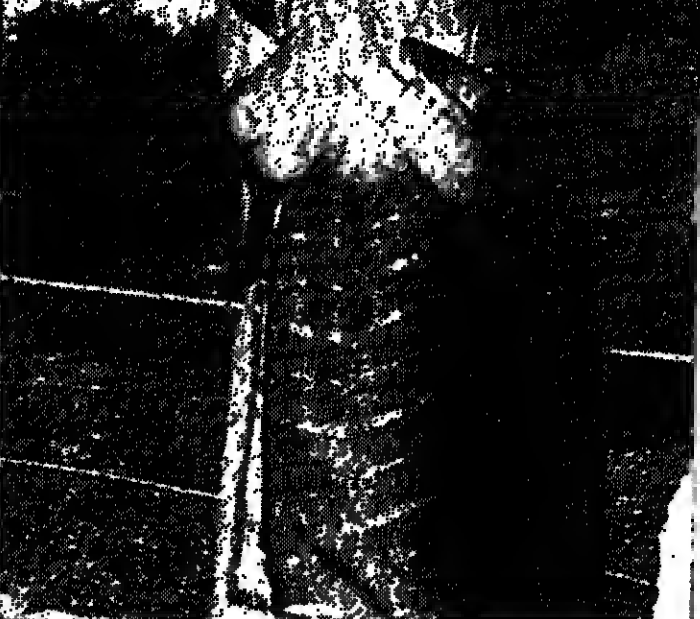
Tinnu Anand: deliberately set out to dethrone Amitabh in Shahenshah

pet daughter Winnie into the project? Winnie is so desperate for attention that she posed almost semi-nude for the cover of an annual glossy. Tut tut. That's no way for a mother to make her girl a heroine.

Talking of Dimple, she talks these days of only one topic, that her new relationship with Rajesh Khanna is just professional. But how professional can you be with a man, when you stay for hours in his house, as well? On the other hand Rekha these days thinks less of her man, the one and only one she married in her thoughts. She is busy mothering younger heroines like Mandakini and Farha. She makes people wonder how two cats can really hug each other. Meanwhile, she has a side-line friendship with the fair, tall and handsome Aadiya Pancholi. This has given a ready-made excuse to Zarina Wahab, who herself makes people talk, by saying that her young husband

Pran is being fast superceded as a villain by younger actors. So the best way to draw attention to himself is to praise the others. After a recent private screening, Pran told Gulshan Grover that he found Grover's role so hate-arousing that he felt like slapping him. Grover in turn said that Pran could have done it better. In short, both got into the news.

Our bald and wigged friend Raj Kumar has his own tactics. He refuses to recognise his co-stars and calls them by other names. Recently while doing a scene with Amrish Puri, the latter tried to speak his dialogues



To marry or not to marry, Poonam keeps everyone in suspense.

haltingly like Raj Kumar. When the director objected, Amrish said: "If that chap can do it why can't I?" To which Raj Kumar snapped: "Mr. Om Puri, if you merely wear a wig, you don't become another Raj Kumar."

Statements by other film folk are equally astounding. The young and sexy actor Chunky Pandey claims that he has a right to flirt with every heroine, old or young, whether it is Hema Malini or Sangeeta Bijlani. All that we can say is: "Young man, you have still to meet your match."

Suresh Oberoi says that after Kahl-Chakra he has become a super hero, i.e. a non-hero who is better than the hero, and that people rush to him for autographs even if Dharmendra or Jeetendra are around. Raj Babbar, meanwhile, has dropped the clanger that the "Hope 77" show was like bartering the industry for private benefits.

Amala's debacle with Surendra Mohan's film (her first in Bombay) brought her a bad name. So she promptly stated that there was no bad blood between them and that they had parted amicably. What she did not reveal was the real reason she left the film. It was because, the hero was the flop actor Sumeet Saigal. Obviously she wants to star with a bigger name and banner. Her first one will be Kab Tak Chup Rahungi, modelled on the old

A.V.M. hit starring Meena Kumari. Even the posters look the same. But the story is somewhat different... a village yokel rescuing a city girl from her bad husband. Someone discovered that Daka Kondke's Aage Ki Soch has a similar story. This at once became an excellent opportunity for both to be in the public eye. A mock fight was raked up and the two began to threaten each other. Actually the set-ups of the two films, one a comedy and the other a melodrama, make them totally different. But then why not make the most of it, till the films are released?

Yash Chopra never tires of praising his own movie and its stars. Every second day he finds "Chandni" to be the dream of his life and heroine Sri Devi the



Yash Chopra (third right) with Sri Devi and a few other well-known faces. She is the 'divine creature', who will realise the dream of his life 'Chandni'.

"divine" creature who will realise it. (Earlier, Rekha was the heavenly angel, who was quickly forgotten).

Nobody can beat Farha in being sensational and jumping into the limelight. Her karate threats to different heroes are as explosive as paper bags. Recently, she was caught on the wrong foot, praising Jackie Shroff in one place and condemning him in another. This followed the gossip about Jackie molesting her sister Tabboo. But Farha could not make a straight attack, since she herself said it be involved with Jackie, during an outdoor shooting in a foreign country. On the other hand, Divya Rana's career was going so badly that she thought the best publicity was marriage to a rich businessman.

Shabana Azmi has thrown a missile by saying that the Indian Press has lost its credibility. The journalists are questioning the same in Shabana. She was at one time attacking Amitabh regularly for his role in political scandals but now she does not say a word, as she is doing a film with him.

Now, Shabana is criticising Naseeruddin for saying on TV that doing art films was a waste of time. Even Shabana's latest successor Deepa Sahi has said that she is fed up with looking intense on the screen and would like to do a variety of roles, meaning commercial films.

Jaya Prada's recent scoop was to kiss Amitabh (on the cheek only). She was thus proving that she was one up on Sri Devi who does not like to work with Amit, as the heroine has nothing much to do in his films. Jaya says her own roles with Amit are quite powerful. Lastly, there are the stars who remain in the news with the trick of "be or not to be." For example, Poonam Dhillon keeps everyone in suspense about whether she will get married or not to producer Bhasker Raj Babbar, whose great riddle as to whether he will or will not join V.P. Singh's opposition party and become a politician himself. And above all, it is Amitabh himself who hits the headlines with photos every second day, with the question: will he fight the elections again from Allahabad or not?

Upcoming star Anzala (centre) parted amicably from producer Mohan (left). She didn't think much of her co-star Sumeet Saigal (right).



Upcoming star Anzala (centre) parted amicably from producer Mohan (left). She didn't think much of her co-star Sumeet Saigal (right).

Documentaries on Ray, Kishore Kumar

SATYAJIT RAY has just completed a documentary on his father, Sukumar Ray, the great literary figure of Bengal.

And now BBC TV is going to feature Satyajit Ray himself in its prestigious series called Omnibus. This series, which spends about two hours each time extolling the virtues of eminent persons in the fields of art, cinema, literature, etc. has earlier turned the spotlight on Alfred Hitchcock and the Spanish director, Luis Bunuel.

Meanwhile, Sandip himself is neck-deep in a "docu-feature" on Kishore Kumar. Leher, Multichannel's video magazine, has already featured his last journey in its third volume released about a month back, and there are reports of at least a couple more such documentaries being hurriedly canned. But Sandip's docu-feature promises to be different.

Sandip is close to Amir Kumar, and Ruma Guhathak-urta is a relations of the Ray family. Kishore himself was acknowledged as a formidable talent by Satyajit early in his career, and he sang for Ray in Ghare Baire. So Sandip's tribute to Kishore is on line, really. Packed with in-depth interviews with close associates, song sequences and film clips, Sandip's effort might just turn out to be another Bala (the documentary Ray Sr. did on the divine dancer Balasaraswati).

Tight-lipped about the affair (he always seems to treat his films like classified information), Sandip refuses to reveal anything "at this stage."

Meanwhile Hemant Kumar, the other great singer from Bengal, is doing very well, thank you, in Calcutta; so what if Bombay has forgotten him and prefers the cacophony of Bappi Lahiri and Annu Malik and Nadeem-Shravan and whatever names are. Ever since a heart attack in 1983, Hemant's physical exertions have been

restricted, but he continues, to be fit as a fiddle, musically speaking.

"Times have changed a lot," Hemant said when I met him at his residence. "Woh zamana to bahut hi aache tha. Today's world is getting suffocating because of the overpopulation, the cars... When I want to go out, dil mana kar ta hai, mat jao."

When he went over to Bombay in 1951, did the film world change his attitude to life? "I've always been happy with what I got," he said. "I do my work and do not bother about the result. So I'm never disappointed and hence always prepared for failure."

Would he describe himself as a pessimist, then, or an optimist? "Neither, I'm a realist."

Asked to comment on his contemporaries, he steadfastly refused. "I never think about the others," he replied. But so many great singers have sung under his baton; what did he

think about them as a music director? "They're all good, but Lata is Lata," he finally admitted. "It's difficult to compare her with anyone. She'd not only sing as I'd want her to, but she'd add her own expression to the song."

Hemant hasn't heard any of the new voices on the scene and so did not want to comment on them. "I like Lata's songs much more today. There is more roundness, she is less shrill." The only current singers he has "heard of" are Mohd Aziz and Suresh Wadkar, the latter, too, from Lata.

How about his own daughter, Ranu? "Ranu is a very good singer," he said promptly, perhaps revealing the father in him. "She is persevering. But she got a chance to sing only during her childhood. Later she was overlooked."

As the honking of cars below the window (his house is bang opposite a cinema) rose above Bappi Lahiri's decibel count, we decided to stop there.

FAMILY DOCTOR
By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIMBRAIN TUMOUR SYMPTOMS VARY
WITH SIZE, LOCATION

QUESTION: I'm tremendously worried by a whole set of feelings and symptoms that are hard to describe. I'm sure I have a brain tumour or something terrible like that. Would you please describe just what the symptoms of a brain tumour might be?

ANSWER: Brain tumours are extremely difficult to diagnose, and part of the reason is that the condition has no hard and fast symptoms. Symptoms for a brain tumour can vary depending on the size of the growth and where it is within the brain. In some instances, tumour symptoms may be similar to those for a stroke or may mimic those of other conditions. Often, symptoms come up gradually and go unnoticed for a long time. As the tumour grows, symptoms gradually may get worse.

Some tumours cause increased pressure to develop within the skull or cranium, with symptoms of severe headaches and nausea early in the morning and changes in vision. However, not all tumours increase cranial pressure and not all increased pressure is due to a tumour.

Tumours of the brain stem, where the brain and the spinal cord meet, can have a variety

of symptoms. The most common are vomiting for no reason and problems with walking. Brain stem tumours also can cause difficulties with the face and head, such as weakness of facial muscles, difficulty in swallowing, eye movement problems, hearing loss, head tilt, headache and impaired speech. Personality changes also can occur.

Tumours that occur in the brain structures in the centre of the brain often increase cranial pressure. If the swelling or growth affects the optic nerves, eye movement and vision may be impaired. The pituitary gland is in this central region, so a tumour may change glandular functions such as growth or cause a condition called diabetes insipidus.

Several types of tumours in the cerebellum can increase pressure within the skull, causing headaches and nausea. They also can reduce coordination and cause tremors, swaying and staggering, or speech problems.

Tumours growing in or by the acoustic nerves, which lead to the ear, can cause symptoms such as ringing or buzzing in the

ears or dizziness.

Some tumours of the cerebrum cause a gradual paralysis on one side of the body, convulsions, impaired memory and judgement, and personality changes. Vision, smell and hearing may be affected on only one side, and usually on the side opposite that of the tumour. If both halves of the brain are involved by the tumour, changes may affect both sides.

Tumours in the parietal lobe, which is on either side of the brain about two-thirds back from the face, may manifest themselves as a loss of the ability to write or read, or as a loss of the ability to recognise parts of the body.

Now that I've covered all that I can, you can see that the diagnosis of your condition is impossible over this long distance. The only path to relieving your anxiety and fears is to take the step that leads you to your physician. The chances are that your fears are unfounded. If they are correct, your best chances for cure are in an early diagnosis. Please see your doctor, won't you?

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ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Experts to discuss role of Arab stock markets

PRIVATISATION of Arab state-held companies and the role of Arab stock markets in the public flotations would be the main theme of a symposium sponsored by the Association of Arab Stock Exchanges to be held in Casablanca, Morocco in September.

A source at Kuwait Stock Market told Kuna on Thursday that a technical committee grouping representatives of Arab stock markets which has met in Tunis decided to hold the association's symposium from September 6 to 8.

The source added that Kuwaiti economist, Jassim Al Saadoun will lecture on the role of Arab private sector in economic development during the first part of the symposium which would tackle the feasibility and requirements of privatisation.

Environment
The Tunisian government's economic adviser Dr. Jamaledine Al Shashty will discuss, in the investment environment in Arab countries and its bearing on the private sector.

The International Monetary Fund is also taking part in the gathering. IMF expert Dr. Ali Mansour will address the notion, instruments and effects of transferring state companies to the private sector.

According to the source, the second part of the symposium will dwell on the privatisation programmes of other countries and the role of stock markets in the sell-offs.

French, British and American privatisation moves will also be discussed in the meeting, besides the experiences of some Arab countries such as Morocco and Tunisia.

Dr. Hosny Khalil of Cairo's Stock Market will present a paper on the role of Arab bourses in realising the strategy of transferring the public companies to the private sector.

The source also said that director of the technical bureau at Kuwait Stock Exchange, Dr. Saifak Al Rukabti took part in the two-day Tunis meeting that ended on April 14.

Sabic profits up

RIYADH, April 22. (Opecna): The Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic) and its affiliated companies netted profits of about \$288 million last year, according to Industry and Electricity Minister Abdulaziz Al Zamil. This came in a statement following the meeting of Sabic's board of directors held under the minister's chairmanship.

Al Zamil said the company's current year profits were more than four times the \$65 million figure recorded in 1986.

The meeting reviewed Sabic's operations, including production and marketing, its final accounts and the auditor's report.

Sabic's sales reached \$2.13 billion last year, 1.60 billion to foreign customers and \$34 million to domestic consumers.

Reagan's veto threat ignored

House passes US trade bill

WASHINGTON, April 22. (Reuters): Ignoring President Reagan's veto threat, the House yesterday passed a massive trade bill aimed at making US industry more competitive around the world.

The outcome put Congress on a collision course with Reagan, who hours earlier said he would veto the legislation in its current form.

The Senate today takes up the measure in a debate that is expected to spill into next week before final congressional action is taken.

The measure was approved by a vote of 312 to 107, well above the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a presidential veto.

The bill, which has been before Congress for more than three years, targets foreign markets with trade barriers that make it difficult for US companies to compete.

The United States declares

our independence from those forces that would hold us down and rob our jobs," House Speaker Jim Wright said.

Congressman Dan Rostenkowski, who led House negotiations to reach a compromise bill, said: "This is not so much a warning to the rest of the world as a challenge" to open their markets.

Regan, however, vowed to veto the legislation because of a provision that has no bearing on trade policy. The disputed section would force large US firms to give at least 60 days notice before closing a plant or laying off a large number of workers.

Republicans, citing Reagan's threat, tried unsuccessfully to drop it from the legislation before the House voted on the full bill, but that attempt was rejected by a vote of 253 to 167.

The section was included after heavy pressure was applied by labour unions, a potent force in US election-year politics. All

House members face election contests this fall.

Major US business groups, while voicing approval for most of the bill, urged a presidential veto because of the plant closing section.

Version
Regan, in a televised speech to the World Affairs Council in Springfield, Massachusetts, said he was not opposed to trade legislation but complained the final version included unacceptable items.

"If I do have to veto it, I will immediately call on Congress to adopt a trade bill, but without those things added on," Reagan told the group.

Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd said however that Congress must override a veto because a revised bill "may not be possible."

Reagan also objects to a section that would impose a three-year ban on the sale of Toshiba products to the US government

because some high technology equipment made by a Toshiba subsidiary was sold to the Soviet Union.

The subsidiary of the Japanese industrial giant sold equipment that the Pentagon says helped the Soviet Union build submarines that are more difficult to detect.

Another firm, Kongsberg Vaapenfabrikk of Norway, was included in the ban for a similar offence.

The administration also opposes a section that would reduce presidential leeway in dealing with US trading partners accused of erecting unfair barriers to protect their domestic markets.

Dropped
A stronger provision, drafted by former Democratic presidential candidate Richard Gephardt, was dropped after the administration complained that the Missouri Congressman's amendment would force mandatory retaliation by the President.

The new language would force the government to investigate charges of unfair trade policies by allies, but it would give the President the ability to decide the appropriate form of retaliation.

Although the bill does not target specific countries by name, congressional leaders cited Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and West Germany as examples.

The legislation also would grant the President and his successor the authority to conduct multilateral trade negotiations, until 1993 under the General Agreement on Trade and Trade, which was established in 1948 to liberalise world trade.

Last year, the House and the Senate each passed differing versions of a trade bill that the White House condemned as "protectionist."

Several items were either dropped or modified in the compromise version in an attempt to enact the bill into law.

S. Korea to cut tariffs, taxes on foreign cars

SEOUL, South Korea, April 22. (AP): The government plans to lower tariffs on imported cars and reduce several domestic taxes on foreign vehicles to those on domestic automobiles, trade and industry ministry officials said today.

The officials said the measures, contained in plans presented yesterday during a meeting with members of the South Korean auto industry, were designed to avoid trade friction with other countries and increase the competitiveness of local carmakers.

They did not say when the proposed measures would take effect.

The United States has accused

South Korea of imposing discriminatory restrictions on US cars while enjoying free access to the US auto market.

South Korea responded earlier this month by lifting its ban on imports of foreign cars — but imposed high tariffs and bureaucratic red tape.

The ministry now plans to lower import duties from the present 30 per cent to 25 per cent next year, to 20 per cent in 1990 and to 15 per cent in 1992, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They said the plans also call for reducing the local acquisition tax on the foreign cars from the present 30 per cent to 2 per cent, the same as for domestic

automobiles. Car operation and licence taxes for foreign cars may also be cut under the plans.

Also, car owners now must buy 2.99 million won (\$4,030) in government bonds when registering a foreign automobile, and the officials said that may be abolished or drastically reduced.

Production
For small South Korean cars, the hood purchase is about 270,000 won (\$364), although about 1.6 million won (\$2,160) in bonds are required to register costlier local automobiles. The bonds mature in five years.

Meanwhile, officials said the ministry would encourage domestic carmakers to buy more US parts and components.

Also, new car makers — both wholly owned local companies and those with foreign partners — will be allowed to operate beginning in mid-1989.

A July 1986 law banned joint production to avoid overproduction of automobiles, and this kept the Samsung business group from starting a car manufacturing plant together with Chrysler Corp. of the United States.

There are now three large and two small car makers in South Korea with a combined annual production capacity of 1.1 million vehicles. They exported a total of 540,000 cars last year, most of which went to the United States and Canada.

Tandy offers first erasable compact disc

NEW YORK, April 22. (Reuters): In a surprise announcement with broad implications for the recording, electronics and computer industries, Tandy Corp. disclosed yesterday that it has developed the first erasable compact disc.

The new product, on which music — and video or computer data — can be repeatedly recorded and erased, is a major advance over existing CDs, whose contents cannot be changed.

The news overshadowed Tandy's simultaneous unveiling of its first "clone" of an IBM PS/2 personal computer.

Analysts had expected Fort Worth, Texas-based Tandy to introduce the PS/2-compatible model, which is Tandy's most powerful PC ever. But they were unaware that Tandy had perfected an erasable CD.

Tandy chairman Jolin Roach said the new disc, called Thor-CD, could prove very lucrative for the company, which has a large retail sales channel in its radio shack stores. "We see the potential for tens of millions and even hundreds of millions of dollars in profit and royalties," he said.

Investors evidently agreed, sending Tandy's stock soaring \$2.375 to \$45.75 in heavy trading.

Inflation bites

Chinese confidence in currency wavers

PEKING, April 22. (Reuters): China's currency, stable for more than 30 years, is facing a erosion of confidence amid mounting inflation.

The Economic Daily reported on Wednesday that total bank deposits had fallen this year because inflation had surpassed bank interest levels, encouraging people to spend.

It said that in the first two months of this year, China's 200 million city dwellers spent more than they earned — rare for a country where payments are normally in cash and credit cards are almost unknown.

Panic
The official press this week reported widespread panic buying of washing powder, soap, towels, blankets and rice by consumers fearful of rising prices.

Inflation is a new experience for China, accustomed to frozen wages and prices and low bank interest rates for 30 years after Communist China was set up in 1949.

Things changed with widespread reforms in 1979 aimed at modernising the stagnant economy and ending years of shortages.

The currency, the renminbi, which means "people's money," lost 25.8 per cent of its value

between 1980 and 1987, the Economic Daily said.

It is now officially pegged at 3.72 to the dollar but the weakness of the American currency has added to the cost of imports and helped drive up prices.

Interest
The retail price index, the closest measure of inflation, rose 7.3 per cent last year over 1986. It climbed 11 per cent in the first quarter of this year, reaching 15.4 per cent in major cities. But interest on a one-year bank deposit pays only six per cent.

Economists said that waste and extravagance, mainly by state organisations, are partly to blame for the steep rise in prices.

But Economic Information newspaper reported last week that bonus payments last year rose nearly 40 per cent over 1986, more than five times the increase in productivity, with some firms offering 100 different kinds of bonuses.

Even factories that lost money paid bonuses, with some workers wondering why they received them and others demanding more to keep up with other workers.

Economic Daily described how state firms in Benxi, in the north-east, gave a blank cheque to the town's three deluxe hotels

to fill in at the end of each month to cover enormous banquets and feasting.

The price of the hotels' top table, seating eight, is 700 yuan (\$190), 18 months' income for an average peasant.

Another factor driving up prices was excessive investment in capital construction, which rose 11.3 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

All this overspending has given China a budget deficit every year since 1978, except for 1985. To finance the deficit and pay for new projects, the Central Bank has been forced to print

more money, another factor in the renminbi's sagging value.

The blame for this lies not with the "bank itself" but the State Council (cabinet) which controls the money supply, said an angry article in the Peking Financial Times this week.

It said monetary policy since 1984 had been erratic and called for the Central Bank to be given full power to control the supply of money and credit.

Money supply grew by 23 per cent in 1987 after similar rises in the two previous years, higher than the growth in industrial output in the three years.

World Business Summary

US industry operated at 82.3pc of capacity in March

WASHINGTON, April 22. (AP): US industry operated at 82.3 per cent of capacity in March, the second consecutive monthly decline, the government reported yesterday.

The Federal Reserve Board said that US factories, mines and utilities saw their operating rate drop by 0.1 percentage point from February. It was the second monthly decline following a 0.2 per cent point dip in February to an operating rate of 82.4 per cent, down from 82.6 per cent in January. Analysts said the setbacks had been expected, given the fact that certain factories, in particular the auto industry, cut back on production during the first three months of the year in order to reduce high backlogs of unsold goods. The operating rate for manufacturing plants edged down to 82.5 per cent in March, compared to 82.6 per cent in February. Production of durable goods, items expected to last three or more years, rose slightly to 80.2 per cent of capacity, up 0.1 percentage point from February, while production of non-durable goods dipped 0.3 percentage point to 85.9 per cent of capacity.

The mining industry, which includes oil and gas drilling, saw capacity climb to 80.3 per cent last month, up from 79.8 per cent in February, while production at electric and gas utilities edged down 0.1 per cent to 81.8 per cent.

The various changes left the overall operating rate up 0.6 percentage point from a year ago, reflecting the fact that American industry has benefitted from strong demand for exports over the last year.

World's largest cruise ship to be built in Belfast

LONDON, April 22. (Reuters): The world's largest cruise ship, double the size of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II luxury liner, will be built in Northern Ireland for an Indian-born shipping magnate, a Belfast shipyard said today. Harland and Wolff Shipyard said it had signed an agreement with shipowner Ravi Tikoo's Bahamas-based Tikoo Cruise Line and expected a final contract for the £240 million (\$454 million) project to be signed by September. The 1,132-foot (354-metre) vessel, codenamed "ultimate dream" will carry more than 3,000 passengers in 1,500 hotel-styled rooms, each with its own balcony, the shipyard said. "It... heralds a new era in cruise ship design," Harland and Wolff chairman and executive director John Parker told reporters. Plans call for the 160,000 gross registered ton cruise liner to be delivered in 1992. The Norway, 70,200 gross registered tons and 1,035 feet (316 metres) long, is the largest passenger liner ever built.

Britain's largest cruise ship is the Queen Elizabeth II, at 67,140 gross registered tons and 963 feet (293 metres) in length. Parker said the project would create thousands of jobs in Belfast and provide work for subcontractors across Britain at a time of gloomy forecasts for the national ship-building industry. Last year, Harland and Wolff had losses of £58 million (\$110 million).

Porsche to cut staff by 1,000

FRANKFURT, West Germany, April 22. (AP): Porsche AG of West Germany, suffering plummeting sales overseas, plans to reduce its staff by about 1,000 people, or by 11.6 per cent, in the next 15 months, the company said yesterday. The West German maker of luxury sports cars said the staff cuts will be made through attrition, early retirement and other measures. As of January 31, 1988, the company employed 8,606 people, most of whom worked short shifts in January; the company said in a statement. Porsche resorted to shorter work weeks after the company suffered the drop in sales and decided to drastically cut car output at its Zuffenhausen facility in southern West Germany, near Stuttgart. Also as part of its austerity moves late last year, the company decided to cut production it had contracted out to Audi AG's Neckarsulm plant, which is also located in southern West Germany. In the fiscal year that will end July 31, Porsche plans to produce about 33,000 cars, down from 50,715 cars produced in the previous fiscal year. In the first half of this business year, Porsche's worldwide sales fell 15 per cent to 1.46 billion marks (\$884.8 million) from 1.71 billion marks (1.03 billion) in the previous year.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBEY LFE	276/0
ADT LTD	114.0
ALD LYONS	405/0
ANSTRAD	158/0
ARGYLL GP	203.0
ASDA GP	173/0
BAA PP	110.0
BTR	242.0
BAT INDS	415.0
BARCLAYS	377/0
BASS	830/0
BEAZER	178.0
BEECHAMS	457/0
BET ORD	228.0
BITCC PLC	328.0
BLUE ARW	118.0
BLUE CIRC	442/0
BOC GP	375.0
BOOTS CO	223/0
BPH INDS	268.0
BR COM	279/0
BR AIRWAY	158.0
BR AEROSP	392/0
BR GAS RG	176/0
B.P.	267.5
B.P. NEW	75/0
BR TELCOM	247/0
BRITTOIL	510.0
BUNZL	141/0
BURMAN OL	550.0
BURTON	241/0
CABLESWIR	316.0
CADBURYS	278/0
COATS VTY	242/0
COGNAC	327/0
COOKSON	890/0
COURTAULD	351/0
CALGATEY	287/0
CEE CP	188.0
OIKONS	176.0
ENG CHINA	402.0
ENTER OIL	357.0
FERRANTI	78/4
FISONS	260/0
GEN ACCIO	905.0
GEN ELEC	150/0
GLAXO	951/0
GRANADA	335/0
GLOBE	134/0
GRAND NET	80.51
GUS A	052.0
GUARD RYL	900/0
GKN	293/0
GUINNESS	295.0
HUMBERS A	572/0
HANSON	126.0
HAKER SID	471/0
HILLSDON	282.0
ICI	967.0
INI	193.0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
2ND ALLCE	704/0	702/0
600 GROUP	104/0	104/0
A.B. ELECT	435/0	435/0
AAR NLD	283/0	283/0
AARNSON	129/0	130/0
ACRE OIL	188.0	190.0
ADDISON	95/0	94/0
AEMEST	308/0	308/0
ALEX WRCW	158/0	157/0
ALLD COLL	123/0	122/0
ALL IR B	215/0	215/0
ALLD PLNT	52/0	53/0
ALLIANCE	785/0	787/0
AMARI	177/0	177/0
AMEC	399/0	398/0
AMER TRST	116/0	117/0
AMERSHAM	444/0	443/0
AM HLTNC	265/0	266/0
ANGLO O'S	201/0	201/0
APRIOT	421/0	422/0
APV PLC	112/0	112/0
AQUA IR	89/0	90/0
ARAN ENGY	74/0	75/0
ARCHER	160/0	161/0
ARLINGTON	195/0	195/0
ARMSTRONG	132/0	132/0
ASHLEY LA	116/0	116/0
ATWOODS	291/0	291/0
AUS REE A	244/0	244/0
AUS REED	363/0	363/0
AVON RUBB	694/0	695/0
B. WEIMILL	163/0	163/0
BAILL JAP	509/0	511/0
BANKER IT	66/0	67/0
BARKER DO	147/0	148/0
BART DEV	100/0	100/0
BAYNES C	32/0	32/0
BEJAM GP	167/0	166/0
BEHAVEN	46/0	47/0
BELWAY	242/0	240/0
BENLOX HO	60/0	60/0
BENTALLS	188/0	188/0
BERISTON	287/0	287/0
BERKELEY	365/0	365/0
BIRN GROUP	109/0	109/0
BIRNOLD OL	381/0	381/0
BLACKWOOD	529/0	529/0
BLACK L	18/0	18/0
BLUNETT F	34/0	35/0
BOASE HAS	254/0	254/0
BODDINGTON	129/0	128/0
BOOKER	399/0	398/0
BOUT. HEUR	340/0	338/0
BOUTWICK	45/0	45/0
BOUYER	385/0	386/0
BOUYER	170/0	170/0
BR ASSETS	65/0	65/0
BR OREGDI	122/0	122/0
BR LARD	312/0	313/0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORD	1411.6	1423.4	1386.7	1373.3
FT 500 SHR	1015.8	1015.8	984.4	957.6
FT ALL SHR	920.88	923.67	896.75	870.22
FT GOV SEC	91.01	91.01	91.03	88.49
FT GOLD	208.6	208.6	216.4	237.3
FT MINES F	449.04	449.04	439.99	450.65
FT OIL	1848.1	1848.1	1852.0	1663.6
FT MLD DLR	128.61	129.99	129.08	115.04
FT MLD STG	100.44	100.99	101.07	90.79
FT MLD LOC	111.94	112.20	112.36	99.08

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS ABOVE DAY'S LOWS IN LATE TRADING. LONDON, APRIL 22, REUTER - SHARE PRICES SHOWED A FIRMER TENDENCY IN LATE TRADING HELPED BY GAINS ON WALL STREET, BUT VOLUME WAS LIGHT AND DID NOT APPEAR TO REFLECT MUCH BUYING FOR THE NEW ACCOUNT WHICH STARTS ON MONDAY, DEALERS SAID.

AT 1450 GMT, THE FTSE 100 SHARE INDEX WAS 15.5 DOWN AT 1,776.4 AFTER EARLIER TOUCHING A LOW OF 1,769.1. TURNOVER AT 1400 GMT STOOD AT 379.5 MLN SHARES.

DEALERS SAID RECENTLY REDUCED BID ACTIVITY, LITTLE HOPE OF A CUT IN U.K. BASE RATES AND FEARS OF POSSIBLE LARGE RIGHTS ISSUES IN THE NEW ACCOUNT WEIGHED HEAVILY ON SENTIMENT.

DEALERS SAID THE RELEASE YESTERDAY OF WORSE THAN EXPECTED U.K. MARCH BANK LENDING AND MONEY SUPPLY DATA HAS QUASHED HOPES OF A REDUCTION IN U.K. EIGHT PCT BASE RATES.

ONE DEALER SAID, "THE MARCH BANK LENDING FIGURES HAVE LEFT A NASTY AFTERTASTE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO SEE A CUT IN BASE RATES AND MEANWHILE STERLING IS CONTINUING TO DAMAGE THE EXPORTERS."

STERLING STRADDLED 3.16 MARKS IN LATE TRADING WITH THE KEY THREE-MONTH INTERBANK STERLING RATE 1/16 PCT FIRMER AT 8-1/4 1/8 PCT.

AMONG THE INTERNATIONAL STOCKS, ICI LOST 13P TO 966, GLAXO 18P TO 950 AND UNILEVER 9P TO 443.

London Gold

LONDON, APRIL 22, REUTER - GOLD BULLION REMAINED WEAK DURING ROUTINE LATE TRADING AND CONTINUED TO INCH LOWER, CLOSING JUST ABOVE THE WEEK'S LOWS AT 449.00/449.50 OZS.

THIS WAS BELOW OPENING AND PREVIOUS CLOSING LEVELS OF 453.40/453.90 AND 454.50/455.00 OZS RESPECTIVELY.

DEALERS SAID A NUMBER OF FACTORS WEIGHED ON MARKET SENTIMENT TODAY, PUSHING GOLD BELOW 450 OZS BY EARLY AFTERNOON AND INTO FRESH DOWNSIDE TERRITORY.

A STEADY DOLLAR, UNCONSTRUCTIVE TECHNICALS, EARLIER MIDDLE EASTERN SELLING, AS WELL AS TALK OF PRODUCER INTEREST, ALL WEIGHED ON THE MARKET TODAY, THEY SAID.

London Money Market

LONDON, APRIL 22, REUTER - MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES WERE AS MUCH AS 1/4 POINT HIGHER IN LATE TRADING AFTER A NERVOUS DAY, WHICH INJECTED FURTHER UNCERTAINTY OVER WHETHER U.K. BASE RATES CAN FALL FURTHER IN THE SHORT TERM, DEALERS SAID.

TRADERS SAID THE RISE IN CASH RATES WAS LED BY A SHARP MORNING SELL-OFF IN THE SHORT STERLING FUTURE, WHICH STOOD OVER 25 BASIS POINTS BELOW YESTERDAY'S CLOSE ON HEAVY VOLUME.

STERLING CONTINUED AROUND 3.16 MARKS BUT THE FEELING CONTINUED THAT IT COULD MOVE HIGHER TO APPROACH 3.20. THE IOEA THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE MORE LIKELY TO TOLERATE THIS THAN SANCTION LOWER INTEREST RATES IS ALSO GROWING, HOWEVER.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG
DLR	1.8890/00	1.6715/20	5.6755/85	NOON
STG	1.8875/85	3.1540/80	10.7125/7230	NOON
DMK	1.6678/6758	3.148/162	29.365/525	FIX
FFR	5.6710/6830	10.708/726	339.28/92	FIX
SFR	1.3807-3817	2.6057-6090	82.56-66	1300
HFL	1.8755	3.5400	112.165	33.025
ECU	1.24275	0.657886	2.07725	7.05445
SDR	1.38606	0.732590	2.31056	7.84441
YEN	124.60/70	235.20/50		NOON
SDR RATES	22/04/1988	OTHERS	22/04/1988	

BR VITA	432/0	433/0
BRAWNER	240/0	240/0
BRENT CHE	139/0	140/0
BRENT WCR	359/0	358/0
BRIDON	149/0	149/0
BRITANNIC	030/0	035/0
BRITTON E	290/0	289/0
BRUNNER	106/0	106/0
BSG INTL	64/4	65/0
BULMER HP	177/0	175/0
CALEDONIA	347/0	345/0
CALOR GRP	373/0	372/0
CAMB ELEC	242/0	243/0
CAMB INST	41/0	41/0
CANNING W	179/0	179/0
CANNON ST	276/0	276/0
CAP GRP	299/0	300/0
CAP RADIO	305/0	304/0
CARADON	320/0	320/0
CARLOE EN	172/0	173/0
CARLESS C	108/0	108/0
CARLTON C	740/0	738/0
CASE GRP	82/0	81/0
CATER ALL	373/0	370/0
CENTL ITV	505/0	503/0
CHARTERMA	25/4	26/0
CHAS CHUR	125/0	125/0
CHATER ON	332/0	331/0
CHLORIDE	51/0	52/0
CHRISTIES	570/0	570/0
CI GROUP	42/0	42/0
CLYDE PET	144/0	145/0
CONTR. SEC	52/0	53/0
COALITE	313/0	314/0
COATES BR	320/0	320/0
COLLINS A	468/0	468/0
COLLINS W	563/0	558/0
COLOROLL	184/0	184/0
COSTAIN	322/0	321/0
COURTS A	180/0	180/0
COURTS FR	258/0	258/0
COMIE TIC	121/0	121/0
CREST NTC	228/0	228/0
CHN	110/0	111/0
CRODA INT	185/0	190/0
CROTHIER	150/0	151/0
CREST JAL	166/0	167/0
CRYSTALAT	156/0	157/0
DARES EST	28/4	29/0
DANSON IN	203/0	204/0
DE LA RUE	389/0	390/0
DELTA GRP	305/0	305/0
DIPLONIA	217/0	218/0
DRAYTON C	425/0	426/0
DRAYTON J	960/0	960/0
DRY	374/0	373/0
DUNHILL	205/0	207/0
EAGLE RFD	17/6	17/4
EAGLE TST	18/2	18/0
EDIN I.T.	149/1	151/0
ELECTRA	197/0	198/0
ELECTRON	209/0	210/0
ELLIS EVA	179/0	180/0
ELLIS GOL	63/0	64/0
EMPIRE ST	210/0	210/0
ERKINE W	222/0	223/0
EURO W RG	22/4	23/0
EUTROTHERM	342/0	342/0
EUTROTHERM	325/0	326/0
EVERED NL	112/4	112/0
F & C PAC	128/0	128/0
FARNELL E	179/0	180/0
FED. HOUNS	296/0	296/0
FENNER JR	166/0	166/0
FERRUGO	272/0	271/0
FINE ARTS	212/0	212/0
FINLAN GP	75/0	75/0
FITLAY J	85/0	85/0
FITCH LOW	255/0	255/0
FLK BARCK	123/0	124/0
FLNG AMER	110/0	111/0
FLNG CLAY	243/0	241/0
FLNG FEA	180/0	180/0
FLNG JAPH	214/0	216/0
FLNG NERC	173/0	173/0
FLNG OSEA	147/4	148/0
FLNG TECH	156/0	157/0
FLNG UNIV	138/0	139/0
FOSECO IN	249/0	249/0
FR GROUP	273/0	272/0
FRESHBANK	99/0	100/0
FST LEYSR	147/4	148/0
FST NCT	250/0	252/0
FUR & COL	103/0	103/0
GARDNER	47/0	47/0
GEEST	225/0	225/0
GET INTL	113/0	113/0
GESTNER	179/0	180/0
GLYNED	470/0	470/0
GPE	78/0	78/0
GRANPH HD	255/0	255/0
GREEN KNG	441/0	440/0
GREENLL W	218/0	219/0
GREYCON	202/0	202/0
GRUP TV A	45/0	46/0
GT PLTNG	307/0	308/0
GUS ORD	625/0	650/0
GVTT ATLA	117/0	117/0
GVTT ORIE	270/0	271/0
GVTT STRA	227/0	228/0
HALL DND	100/0	100/0
HALL (N)	156/0	156/0
ALMA	151/0	151/0
HAWKERS I	202/0	202/0
HARRISON C	596/0	597/0
HEATHEN C	382/0	382/0
HELENE LN	35/0	35/0
NEWEN-ST	137/0	137/0

HEYWOOD W	306/0	307/0
NICKSH IN	173/0	174/0
NIGGS NIL	339/0	337/0
RODRON GP	371/0	370/0
HOGG TST	230/0	230/0
HOLLIS	106/0	106/0
HOPKINSON	119/0	119/0
MPWYN CRM	240/0	240/0
HRSW GUNS	134/0	133/0
HTV GROUP	227/0	228/0
IBSTOCK J	189/0	188/0
ICE.FZ.FD	336/0	336/0
JMRY H.DV	391/0	390/0
JNDPHOT V	45/0	45/0
JNDPHOT W	6/4	6/4
INT.BU.CH	121/0	121/0
INT.CITY	158/0	160/0
INV.CAP	322/0	321/0
INVERGORD	210/0	210/0
JNSH.MATH	272/0	272/0
KALON GP	34/0	34/4
KENDY BRK	411/0	410/0
KETSON	74/0	74/0
KLART BEN	384/0	384/0
KLART O'S	121/0	121/0
KWIK SAVE	340/0	341/0
KWIK-FIT	200/0	200/0
LAINING 'A'	320/0	320/0
LAINING 'B'	320/0	320/0
LAIRO GP	399/0	400/0
LAIRO GP	238/0	238/0
LAMONT NL	278/0	279/0
LANDLEISU	316/0	315/0
LANDMAN O'S	170/0	168/0
LAURENCE W	152/0	152/0
LDM & M	275/0	274/0
LDM & M	196/0	197/0
LDM SHOP	243/0	244/0
LDM UTO	205/0	205/0
LEIGH INT	218/0	217/0
LEX SERV	364/0	365/0
LIT	29/0	29/0
LOGICA	290/0	291/0
LOVELL HD	585/0	585/0
LOM HMD	409/0	409/0
LOMBARD	251/0	251/0
LNT HLD	382/0	382/0
N.T.M.PLC	143/0	143/0
MACRO 4	95/0	95/0
MAT	379/0	378/0
MAWERS	379/0	379/0

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Gold prices ease

Dollar edges ahead, stocks mixed

LONDON, April 22, (Reuters): The dollar edged higher in Europe today after gains in Asia and New York while stocks were mixed in the absence of any fresh direction from Wall Street or Tokyo, dealers said.

Oil prices firmed about 10 cents from yesterday's levels with British Brent crude at \$17.30 a barrel for June loading ahead of an Opec minister's meeting in Vienna next Thursday.

Gold was fixed in London this morning at \$453.15 an ounce, \$1.10 down on the last fix.

The dollar's rise in Tokyo was helped by a North Korean allegation that South Korea had attacked and destroyed one of its border posts. A United Nations command spokesman in South Korea dismissed reports of the clash as a "total fabrication" but speculators in Tokyo seized on the news as an excuse to buy dollars, thus pushing up the value of the US currency.

Dealers said speculators seized on the news as an excuse to push the dollar up, but selling soon started, limiting its advance.

The currency ended the day at 124.65 yen and 1.6695/05 West German marks against New York's yesterday's close of 124.35 yen.

"Trading had been boring in the absence of fresh factors during the morning so some speculators tried to push the dollar up on the news and rumours, using them as an excuse," said a dealer at a US bank.

Firmers

But dealers said the dollar's rise seemed temporary.

Financial analysts in Europe said the report along with Gulf tensions could help push the dollar higher.

Operators want to have enough dollars in case the currency is boosted by developments in the Gulf, said Manfred

Totzauer, chief dollar-mark trader at Citibank in Frankfurt. The market was waiting for release of figures on US durable goods orders at 1230 GMT but dealers said they did not expect the data to put much life into the market.

The dollar started in London at about 1.6690 West German marks, slightly firmer on yesterday's close of 1.6640.

Attention was on the pound sterling which has climbed on investors' belief that British interest rates will remain high.

The pound opened in London just over 3.16 marks from yesterday's close of 3.1572, but slipped back to trade just below 3.15 by late morning.

Action

Shares on the London stock exchange fell in morning trading after opening easier. At midday the 100-share FTSE index was down 17.5 points at 1,774.4.

Much of the takeover talk

which helped to support the London market earlier this week has cooled as have investors' hopes for a cut in British base lending rates.

In Frankfurt, dealers expected little action on the stock market where shares opened mixed in thin trading.

"It looks like being a typical Friday market," one West German dealer said. "I don't expect anything to happen at all."

French blue chip shares opened the continuous session mostly higher, buoyed by a firmer dollar and bourse rumours that the right was closing the gap on the left ahead of the first round of the French presidential election on Sunday.

The second round on May 8 narrows the field to two leading candidates. Current favourite in win is Socialist incumbent Francois Mitterrand while Prime Minister Jacques Chirac is expected to be the other can-

didate on May 8.

Dutch shares opened lower in quiet trade.

Yesterday, New York's Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 1.99 points at 1,987.40. But the dull finish masked a day of roller-coaster trading that saw the blue-chip index up by some 30 points before a bout of programme trading slammed it as much as 15 points lower at one point.

Tokyo stocks continued to drift, with the Nikkei averaging only 8.96 points in close at 26,837.12.

Wall Street's rocky ride, ending with a 1.99 point rise in the Dow Jones index and a lack of fresh positive factors discouraged buying, brokers said.

"The interest rate situation in the US is unsettling," said a broker at a major securities house. "And the market here is looking for a theme, wondering where it should go."

Latin American commission seeks way out of economic crisis

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 22, (Reuters): Against a backdrop of economic slowdown and seemingly endless negotiations over Latin America's massive debt, officials from 40 countries began talks on Wednesday to seek ways out of the region's economic morass.

But diplomatic sources close to the meeting of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Eclac) said prospects for the future were gloomy.

"The commission's scenario for the next four years is one of little growth and more debt for the countries least able to support it," said a diplomatic source close to the meeting.

Technical-level meetings began in a Rio beachside hotel but Eclac's 22nd ordinary conference will not move into full swing until Monday when many of the region's economy and foreign ministers join it.

Flight

Eclac officials set the tone for the meeting two months ago when they issued a report saying development was being strangled by capital flight, concentration of wealth in a few hands and crushing foreign debt.

Long-term prospects were hardly better, the report said.

By 1992, Latin America's foreign debt could be expected to rise to \$540 billion from slightly over 400 billion at present, the report said.

It added that local economies will probably remain caught between massive outflow of capital, as countries strive to make debt interest payments, and meagre export earnings as world commodity prices stay low.

"Even if the transfer of financial resources abroad were halted... the development prospects for the vast majority of countries in the region... would still be rather bleak," the report said.

Consequences

It said that despite a flowering of democracy in much of the region that has given the poor a bigger say in government, there was little to suggest any improvement in the desperate poverty in which millions of Latin Americans live.

To remedy them of the region's gross inequalities, delegates to the meeting need only look out the window.

Only a few blocks from their hotel in the Copacabana neighbourhood, shantytowns climb up the steep hillsides where Rio's poorest workers and their legions of unemployed live amid precarious shacks and open sewers.

"The painful consequences of the crisis, the magnitude and reach of which would have been unimaginable only a few years ago, could continue over time and, in some cases, even get worse," the report said.

The report also outlined a series of "options open to creditors and debtors" for resolving the debt crisis, including joint action by creditor governments and banks to cut interest rates.

Thirty-three Latin and Caribbean nations speaking five languages, plus the United States and six other industrialised countries including Britain, are scheduled to send delegations to the Eclac meeting.

Diplomatic sources said the conference should get a political charge at ministerial-level meetings next week, particularly when Cuban Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez is scheduled to address the delegates on Monday.

"The Cubans usually come up with some pretty daring proposals for the debt which... create confrontation with the US for obvious reasons," said a diplomatic source.

Cuban leader Fidel Castro has long exhorted the region to halt debt payments to Western banks.

Indonesia expects Opec pact with non-Opec producers

Kartasasmita sees hope for price stability

JAKARTA, April 22, (Reuters): Indonesia expects Opec will reach agreement with major producers outside the organisation to stabilise oil prices over the long term. Mines and Energy Minister Ginting Kartasasmita said yesterday.

"We expect an agreement can be reached. But even without one, I do not think it will greatly affect oil prices," Ginting said after meeting President Suharto.

Indonesia is a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' five-man pricing committee that will consult officials of six oil producers outside the organisation in

Vienna on Tuesday on ways to curb output. A full Opec conference will follow on Thursday.

Ginting said his predecessor Subroto, a 10-year veteran of Opec meetings, will accompany him in Vienna.

He dismissed the possibility of a price war if the meetings end in failure. "None of them wants to sell their oil at \$10 a barrel, so I don't think a price war will happen," he said.

Ginting said he would put forward a plan to reduce world oil production by 700,000 barrels.

"I think if non-Opec producers return to their earlier

output level as they had promised there will be a reduction of 400,000 barrels a day (bpd). And if those Opec members which are overproducing stick to their quotas there will be a reduction of 300,000 bpd," he said.

"If all steps have been taken and we still cannot push up oil prices, we can discuss it again. I believe prices will surely reach \$18 again with the 700,000 bpd reduction," he said.

Iran's Deputy Oil Minister Hossein Kazempour Ardebili told Reuters after meeting Ginting that Opec does not need to make any changes in its overall

output ceiling or quotas among members at next week's extraordinary Opec meeting.

"Maybe at this juncture it is not a question of the ceiling of the production and the quotas among the member countries," Ardebili said.

"Later in June when there is the ordinary (Opec) meeting the question of the ceiling and the quota will be discussed," he said.

Output

Ardebili had earlier argued for output cuts of five to 10 per cent after flying in Vienna for a surprise appearance at a meeting of the pricing panel on April 9.

Opec has set an overall ceiling

of 15.06 million barrels a day for 12 of its 13 members. Iraq has refused to accept its quota.

"We like to see the price today immediately restored to \$18 and we will work out a mechanism so that prices will not fall in the future," he said.

"Then in June during the ordinary meeting of the Opec we have to formulate a strategy for the gradual increase of oil prices," Ardebili said.

Opec's reference price of \$18 a barrel "is the minimum that we can achieve immediately, which we almost (have) and later we have to gradually increase this price," he said.

Foreign banks in India shy away from term loans

This is the second part of the article "Government to strengthen capital base." The first part appeared in the Arab Times on April 21-22.

While the highest ratio is 0.31 in the case of Central Bank of India, among foreign banks, American Express (Indian branches) recorded 3.8 per cent (See table 1).

Viewed against another yardstick of returns of equity, Indian banks are nowhere near their foreign counterparts. The nationalised banks' group has posted a net profit of Rs 151 crores on owned funds base of Rs 1,460 crores giving a return of around 10 per cent.

In the case of foreign banks, the ratio of Indian branch profit to Indian equity is a whopping 150 per cent. In the case of Standard Chartered Bank, the return of Indian equity is an incredible 400 per cent.

Profitability

In the Indian banks' context, this ratio may be irrelevant but the profit is still relevant. Profitability is not anathema to social orientation.

Indian branches of five foreign banks with an Indian equity investment of Rs 35 crores have remitted more than Rs 40 crores

in just two years (1985 & 1986). This is besides other remittances to their parent organisation by way of head office overheads, etc.

This is not to suggest restrictions on the normal accepted business activity of foreign banks. Such an action would only invite retaliatory action by foreign governments.

Resource mix

Major factors which contribute to the profitability of foreign banks are:

The deposit mix of the foreign banks is low-cost-oriented. Against nationalised banks' share of 17 per cent, non-interest bearing current account deposits account for as high as 25 to 35 per cent. The share of high-cost term deposits is only 52 per cent against 59 per cent in the case of nationalised banks. High balances, besides providing cheap source, also lend a fair degree of flexibility to its operations.

While Indian banks are beset with increase in size of their assets and liabilities, foreign banks lay more emphasis on fee-related business. With ever-increasing SLR and CRR and highly administered interest rate structure, spread on the resource-based business is on the decline.

In this context, non-fund income contributes significantly to profitability. While the combined average ratio of non-fund income to total income is nearly 16 per cent, in the case of foreign banks, the ratio is only 6.5 per cent in the case of nationalised banks. Only the SBI group has a ratio of 12 per cent (approximately) which is mainly on account of handling government transactions.

Advances mix

Bills portfolio offers a higher spread, liquidity besides quick turnaround of resources. This also brings in non-interest bearing current account balances and non-fund business like letters of credit and co-acceptance business.

Foreign banks assiduously nurture and nurse a high ratio of bill business. While the ratio of bills advance total credit is around 12 per cent in the case of Indian banks the ratio is as high as 28 per cent in the case of foreign banks. Term loans offer less yield, less flexibility and very slow turnaround.

The high level of term loans renders it difficult for the shift in portfolios. Foreign banks generally shy away from term loans while Indian ones are obliged to extend term loans and that too at

low rates of returns to the priority sector.

While the ratio of term loans is estimated to be less than five per cent in the case of foreign banks, the ratio is as high as 29 per cent in the case of Indian banks. A secondary market for term loans exists in the foreign countries and this provides an easy exit route to foreign banks elsewhere bedevilled by blockade of funds.

Massive

The nationwide massive network of Indian branches makes compliance with SLR/CRR difficult. The present guidelines require maintenance of liquid and approved assets on a daily basis. Poor information systems and unwieldy branch network makes it impossible for the banks to ascertain demand and time liabilities with a fair degree of accuracy. Given the high level of penalties for non-compliance, performance of the banks in maintenance of SLR/CRR significantly influences the level of profit. Unable to collate demand and time liabilities, many Indian banks find themselves either defaulting in maintenance of SLR/CRR or nursing substantial idle funds. Monitoring the compliance with SLR/CRR has become a major pre-occupation with senior executives of banks.

Small network of branches give foreign banks better manoeuvrability of liquid assets profitably. Through overseas connections they are able to garner substantial FCNR/NRE deposits which attract less CRR obligations and enable them to retain more lendable funds.

This segment of deposits also provides substantial benefit by way of exchange profit.

Unlike in the West, banks in India are permitted to undertake both commercial and investment banking activities, without any restrictions.

Foreign banks have exploited to the hilt this new found opportunity not available in their own countries. Call it securitisation of debt, off-balance sheet financing, investment banking, portfolio management, they are all different versions and variations of financial disintermediation.

Except for a couple of banks, Indian banks are far behind foreign ones in the race for merchant banking.

Even regarding issue management and dividend and refund payment, a retail segment of merchant banking, foreign banks, with restricted branch network walked away with a fair share of business.

(Concluded)

US budget deficit widens

WASHINGTON, April 22, (AP): The federal budget deficit grew more than expected in March, but the cumulative deficit in the first six months of the fiscal year is still 3.5 per cent smaller than a year ago, the government says.

The Treasury Department said yesterday that the March deficit was \$29.1 billion, up from \$23.9 billion in February and 2.7 per cent larger than March 1987. Economists had been predicting a monthly deficit of \$24 in 26 billion.

Michael Evans, head of an economic forecasting service in Washington, said some federal spending was probably deferred to March from February, when outlays were somewhat smaller than expected.

Analysts also said the budget imbalance is usually higher in March than in other months because people who owe taxes generally wait until April to pay, while those due a refund normally file early.

For the first half of the 1988 fiscal year, the government has run a deficit of \$18.9 billion, 3.5 per cent lower than for the same period a year ago.

For the entire fiscal year, which ends on Sept 30, the government is projecting a deficit of \$146.7 billion, down 2.4 per cent from the \$150.4-billion deficit in 1987.

However, the congressional budget office estimates the deficit will climb to \$157 billion.

Last year, the deficit fell sharply because of an unexpected \$28-billion windfall in tax payments made by people who sold off long-term assets before the capital gains rates were increased under the new tax law.

Some analysts say there could be a second, smaller windfall this year if people end up owing more in taxes for 1987 than they would have under the old tax law.

"April is the big question mark with the tax returns coming in," Evans said.

Revenue

In March, government revenue totalled \$65 billion, while spending totalled \$94.1 billion. For the first half of the year, revenues total \$412.0 billion while spending amounted to \$530.9 billion.

As usual, the largest spending categories in March were the military, followed by social security, interest on the national debt and other programmes in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Military spending totalled \$25.8 billion last month and \$142.3 billion for the fiscal year so far, up 5.6 per cent from the same period a year ago.

Spending for social security totalled \$18.4 billion last month and \$105.0 billion for the past six months, up 5.6 per cent from the same period in the 1987 fiscal year.

Interest on the \$2.5-trillion national debt — nearly one fifth of total government spending — was \$14.4 billion last month and \$105.2 billion so far this fiscal year, an increase of 9.6 per cent over the same period last year.

Lebanese pound strengthens

BEIRUT, April 22, (Reuters): The Lebanese pound closed today at 369.50/370.50 to the dollar compared with the previous 370.50/371.50, the Central Bank said.

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(AT6-41954-2)

SALWA, House, 1987, Block 7, behind Indian Shop. One big room for a family or bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 1102. Rent KD 50. Tel. 5635034.

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(AT1-41930-3)

English clubs may lose points for misbehaviour

LONDON, April 22, (Reuters): English soccer clubs could lose League points next season if players misbehave.

Suspensions will also be increased if the get-tough proposals, announced yesterday by League secretary Graham Kelly and Professional Footballers' Association secretary Gordon Taylor, are approved.

Clubs could have up to three points deducted over a season and a player sent off for violent conduct or a serious foul will face a three-match ban instead of the present two.

Offence

Suspensions for subsequent dismissals will increase automatically by one match for each offence, so that a player ordered off again will be banned for four matches, then five, and so on.

Taylor said: "It's an attempt to introduce the ultimate sanction of deducting League points... the eyes of the soccer world are on us and we are hoping to get back into Europe."

Torino hold on to defeat Juventus

ROME, April 22, (Reuters): Torino conceded two goals in the space of five minutes in the second half but hung on to beat Juventus 3-2 on aggregate in their Italian Cup semifinal on Wednesday.

Torino, 2-0 ahead from the first leg, went further ahead in the 18th minute when midfielder Luigi De Agostini deflected a corner into his own net.

Levelled

De Agostini went some to making amends for his error when he converted a 60th minute penalty to put Juventus 2-1 ahead on the night after Renato Buso had levelled the score five minutes earlier. But there was no further scoring.

Torino will meet Sampdoria in the final. They beat Internazionale on Wednesday, Roberto Mancini scoring the only goal. The first leg was goalless.

Flamengo seek \$6m for Renato

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 22, (Reuters): Officials at Brazilian soccer club Flamengo have told Italy's Bologna to double their \$3 million offer if they want to sign striker Renato Gauchio.

Bologna director Nello Governato made the offer on Wednesday night but Flamengo vice-president Josef Berensztajn rejected it and said yesterday: "Three million dollars is a lot of money, but not for a player like Renato, who is recognised by the media as Brazil's top footballer of the moment."

He said Flamengo would agree to sell Renato only if Second Division Bologna offered \$6 million, "a normal transfer fee in Italy," he added.

Berensztajn said Governato had asked for time to talk to other Bologna officials but said he would meet again with Flamengo directors before returning to Italy.

McGuigan stops Perez

LONDON, April 22, (Reuters): Irishman Barry McGuigan, the former world featherweight boxing champion who quit the ring after losing his title in Las Vegas 22 months ago, overcame American Nicky Perez in his comeback fight on Wednesday.

The super-featherweight contest, scheduled for 10 rounds, ended after McGuigan felled his Mexican-born opponent, the North American champion who had won 58 of his previous 74 contests, twice in the fourth round.

It was just the result and performance McGuigan had been hoping for after his brilliant career had apparently been ended by his crushing Las Vegas defeat at the hands of American Steve Cruz.

He has now won 30 of his 32 fights and hopes to challenge for a version of the world super-featherweight title after two more contests.

His new trainer Jimmy Tibbs said: "Barry was as good as I thought he was going to be. He looked terrific in training. Okay, he looked a bit edgy right at the start, but who wouldn't after so long out of the game?"

In an earlier bout on the same bill, unbeaten British middleweight Nigel Benn, feeling "totally and utterly ruthless", needed only four and a half minutes to win the vacant Commonwealth title in his 17th professional fight.

The 21-year-old Londoner completely destroyed Ghana's Umaru Sada, the referee calling a halt in the second of the scheduled 12 rounds.

It was Sada's sixth defeat in 31 contests.

AJAX AND MECHELEN CRUISE THROUGH

Benfica to face PSV in Champions' Cup final

LISBON, April 22, (Reuters): Portugal's Benfica, representing the old aristocracy of the European game, and PSV Eindhoven, the standard bearers of a new wave of Dutch soccer, will meet in an intriguing Champions' Cup final in Stuttgart on May 25.

In the semifinals on Wednesday, Benfica reached their sixth final by beating Steaua Bucharest 2-0 in front of a crowd of 120,000 in Lisbon. It was the coup de grace that had always seemed likely after the first leg in Romania ended 0-0 two weeks ago.

Earlier, PSV Eindhoven, the only one of the four finalists seeking to reach the final for the first time, sufficed Real Madrid's ambitions in a goalless contest that followed a 1-1 draw in Spain on April 6.

Mattered

The 20th-minute goal scored by Edward Linkens in the first leg proved the goal that mattered. It was the only away goal of the drawn tie and so earned PSV the distinction of becoming the first Dutch side to reach the final of Europe's premier club competition since Ajax Amsterdam in 1973.

PSV's coach Guus Hiddink said after the game: "It is a very important night for PSV Eindhoven and for Dutch football."



Reel's Chendo (left) and Berrie van Aerie of PSV vie for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

We have no history in the European Cup at PSV and we needed to reach the final to prove we have a team really deserving to be noted.

"Tonight we had Madrid in our grip, technically speaking, and we knew we would get through if we made no mistakes. 'Football always goes in waves and cycles and I think Dutch football is coming back towards the top of a new wave. We had a great generation in the 1970s and now we have another era of players who are very much aware of their own skill.'"

Hiddink also saw PSV's success as raising the possibility of a victorious campaign by the national team in the European Championship finals in West Germany in June.

"It could be that the Dutch national team will reproduce everything that we hope for when they play in West Germany," he said. "We have a lot of players who are very skilful but are prepared to work for the team."

While PSV will be striving to win the Cup for the first time next month, Benfica will be appearing in their sixth final — their



Benfica's Diamantino (right) tries to take the ball away from Steaua's Pitura. (Reuters wirephoto)

previous five having been between 1961 and 1968 when they won the trophy twice.

Two superbly headed first-half goals by Rui Aguas gave Benfica their victory over Steaua and raised the prospect of a second Portuguese triumph in successive years following Porto's victory over Bayern Munich in the 1987 final.

Ajax Amsterdam, the holders,

and Mechelen of Belgium both achieved 4-2 aggregate victories to reach the Cup Winners' Cup final in Strasbourg on May 11.

Ajax had won the first leg against Marseille 3-0 in France and although they were beaten 2-1 in the return on Wednesday, their place in the final was never really in doubt.

They build a four-goal advantage when Swedish international

Peter Larsson buried a fierce drive in the 22nd minute and second-half goals by Jean-Pierre Papin and Klaus Allofs came too late for Marseille to mount a serious challenge.

Mechelen crushed Italian club Aialanta's hopes of becoming the first Second Division side to reach a European final. The Belgians, 2-1 winners at home two weeks ago, won the second leg by the same margin after struggling in the first half when they fell behind to a penalty by Oliviero Garfani.

Disposed

Mechelen were transformed in the second half and goals by Graeme Rutjes and Marc Emmers brought them victory.

Espasol of Spain, having disposed of AC Milan and Inter Milan on their way to the UEFA Cup semifinals, scored another surprising success when a goal in the 29th minute of extra time by Pichi Alonso gave them a 3-0 win on the night over Club Brugge of Belgium and a 3-2 aggregate triumph.

They will meet Bayer Leverkusen of West Germany in the two-leg final on May 4 and 18, the first leg in Barcelona. Bayer put out Werder Bremen when they held the West German League leaders to a goalless draw in Bremen having won the first leg 1-0.

Norwich hold Liverpool to draw

LONDON, April 22, (Reuters): Liverpool failed to collect the two points they needed to clinch their 17th English soccer championship on Wednesday when they were held to a 0-0 draw at Norwich City.

Goalkeeper Bryan Gunn pulled off a string of superb saves to deny Liverpool time and again as manager Kenny Dalglish's side went in search of the win they required to secure the title.

And it was Norwich who nearly snatched a late winner when Robert Fleck directed a header just wide of goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar's right hand post in the dying seconds.

Relegation

Injury-hit West Ham raised their hopes of avoiding relegation by picking up a valuable point at Nottingham Forest in another goalless draw.

West Ham striker Tony Cottee had a couple of excellent scoring opportunities but drove wide each time with only goalkeeper Steve Sutton to beat. In a Second-Division match Bradford crushed Reading 3-0.

Ian Ferguson scored with a diving header 14 minutes from time to give Dundee United a 1-0

win over Aberdeen in their Scottish Cup semifinal second replay. United now meet Celtic in the May 14 final — a rematch of the 1985 final which the Glasgow side won 2-1.

Wingers John Barnes and Chris Waddle, colleagues on the England soccer team but rivals in the League, held the key to Liverpool's plans to sew up a record 17th championship title tomorrow.

Both hope to be fit again for the Liverpool-Tottenham clash at Anfield and both will be expected to inspire their respective sides.

Liverpool, needing just one point to make sure of the First Division title, look to Barnes, who missed Wednesday's match draw at Norwich because of a groin strain, to marshal their attack.

Tottenham, wallowing in mid-table, hope Waddle's return after eight weeks out following a hernia operation, will coax the team out of its recent patchy form.

One man watching closely will be England manager Bobby Robson, who wants to take both players to Budapest next Wednesday for a friendly match against Hungary.

Only unforeseen disaster stands between Liverpool and yet another title. Their points total of 81 is still just within reach of Manchester United — assuming, unlikely, that Liverpool did not earn a single point from their final five matches — but United are 32 goals behind on goal difference.

But Dalglish, on course to take his side to the League and Football Association (FA) Cup double for the second time in three years, was maintaining his usual caution.

"We won't become complacent in any shape or form," Dalglish said. "We have five games to clinch in and we can afford to slip up."

Once the championship is in the bag, the former European champions can concentrate on plans for the FA Cup final against Wimbledon on May 14.

Wimbledon should have few worries tomorrow against Chelsea, one of several teams struggling to stay out of the relegation zone.

Portsmouth, also swimming against the relegation tide, are

relying on reserve goalkeeper Andy Gosney against Norwich.

The 24-year-old Gosney, who has made only five League appearances since joining the club as an apprentice, steps in for Alan Knight who is ruled out for the rest of the season with facial injuries sustained against Wimbledon on Tuesday.

Luton manager Ray Harford is pleased to welcome back influential midfielders Ricky Hill and David Preece after long injury lay-offs for the League Cup final against Arsenal at Wembley on Sunday.

But making room for the returning pair has also brought problems for Harford. "It's going to be very hard telling someone that they are not going," Harford said. "It takes a strong character to say: 'Yes, I'm disappointed but I'll be a sub for you.'"

Luton, aware of the difficulties of wrestling the Cup from holders Arsenal, desperately want victory to wipe out the memory of the humiliating 4-1 defeat by Second Division Reading in the final of the Simod Cup, a knock-out competition for League teams, last month.

Drew ahead in St Petersburg Golf Classic

ST PETERSBURG, Fla., April 22, (Reuters): Heather Drew fired a career best six-under-par 66 yesterday and held a one stroke lead after the first round of the \$225,000 St Petersburg Golf Classic.

Rosie Jones, Martha Nause and Canadian Tina Purizer were in a three-way tie for second place after posting five-under-par 67s at the 6,013-yard Pasadena Yacht and Country Club course here.

Superb

Four players — Kathy Ahern, Donna White, Kathy Postlewait and Vicki Fergon — were another stroke back at 68.

Drew began her round in superb fashion as she recorded birdies on her first four holes and added a birdie on her ninth hole to make the turn at five-under-par 31.

Drew, who first played holes 9-18, carded her only bogey on the par-four fourth hole when she was unable to convert from a greenside bunker. She reached six-under with birdies on the final two holes.

N.W. Continent/UK/Scandinavia — Arabian Gulf Trade Change in Currency Adjustment Factor (CAF)

Further to the announcement in the press during the second half of March 1988, notification is hereby given that owing to the deterioration in the position of the US dollar since the previous CAF calculation made in mid-March 1988, the undermentioned lines have decided to increase the CAF from 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent as from the 1st of May 1988.

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Baltimore suffer 15th straight defeat

MILWAUKEE, April 22, (AP): The Baltimore Orioles extended their Major League record to 15 consecutive losses at the start of the season yesterday when they were beaten 7-1 by the Milwaukee Brewers.

Bill Schroder hit a two-run homer that capped a six-run Milwaukee third inning off Scott McGregor, who lasted just 2-3 innings.

The Orioles broke the Major League record with their 14th straight loss Wednesday night and continued the streak as their starting pitching failed once again.

Red Sox 12, Tigers 3
Ellis Burks had four hits and four RBIs. Spike Owen hit a two-run homer, and rookie Steve Ellsworth scattered six hits over seven innings as the Boston Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 12-3.

Burks, who drove in three runs with a bases-loaded triple, also scored four times. Owen and Rick Cerone had three hits apiece in support of Ellsworth, 1-2, who walked one and didn't strike out a batter before giving up a leadoff homer to Matt Nokes in the seventh inning. It was Nokes' fourth.

Owen's two-run homer, his second, came in Boston's three-run ninth.

Angels 11, Mariners 6
Johnny Ray Drove in six runs and he and Bob Boone went 4-for-4.

Ray's two-run double off Billy Swift in the third inning, following Boone's single and Dick Schofield's double, gave California a 2-0 lead. He also had a two-run single in the sixth and another two-run double in the eighth.

Boone's RBI single in the third made it 3-0 but Seattle tied it with three unearned runs in the fifth. California recaptured the lead 4-3 in the bottom of the inning when Ray drew a walk from Ed Nunez, took third on Chili

Davis' single and scored as Wally Joyner grounded into a double play.

In the sixth, Devon White walked and stole both second and third before scoring on Boone's bunt single. Ray's two-run single made it 7-3.

California scored four times in the eighth, triggered by Boone's leadoff double. Ray doubled home two runs.

Stan Javier drove in the lead run with a two-out bloop single in the 13th inning and Oakland defeated Chicago for only the second time in their last 14 meetings.

With the score tied 3-3 since the seventh inning, Jose Canseco and Dave Parker had one-out singles and Mark McGwire walked to load the bases. Pinch hitter Dave Henderson struck out but Javier blooped a single to left, scoring Canseco.

Shortstop Ozzie Guillen bobbled Glenn Hubbard's grounder, allowing Parker to score, and McGwire came home on a wild pitch by loser Bill Long.

Chicago tied the game with two runs in the seventh, including Carlton Fisk's leadoff homer that chased Oakland starter Storm Davis.

Canseco gave Oakland a 3-1 lead in the fifth with a two-run homer. Ivan Calderon homered for Chicago.

Astros 8, Braves 0
Bob Knepper and Ernie Camacho combined on a six-hitter and Denny Walling had three hits and drove in two runs as the Houston Astros beat the Atlanta Braves 8-0.

Results
National League
Cincinnati 7 San Francisco 6
Chicago 4 Montreal 2
St Louis 9 Pittsburgh 3
Houston 8 Atlanta 0
San Diego at Los Angeles ppd

American League
Boston 12 Detroit 3
Milwaukee 7 Baltimore 1
Oakland 6 Chicago 3
California 11 Seattle 6

Barkley takes 76ers to victory over Nets

PHILADELPHIA, April 22, (AP): Charles Barkley scored 38 points and grabbed 19 rebounds last night to lead the Philadelphia 76ers over New Jersey Nets 104-101 and set up a final weekend battle for the last two playoff berths in the NBA Eastern Conference.

Barkley's two free throws and a tap-in basket in the final two minutes carried the 76ers to within one game of New York and Indiana and a half-game back in Washington in the four-team scramble for the postseason spots.

Pistons 99, Bulls 87
Adrian Dantley scored 18 of his 31 points in the second half to lead Detroit over Washington 99-87 and give the Pistons a team-record 53 victories this season.

After Washington tied the game at 45 with the first basket of the second half, Detroit with Dantley scoring 10 points, opened up a lead of as many as eight points before the Bulls trimmed it to 76-71 after three quarters. Dantley scored four points and Isaiah Thomas added two to give the Pistons an 82-72 lead with 10:15 remaining, and Washington was never able to get closer than five points the rest of the way.

Celtics 126, Bulls 119
Larry Bird scored 44 points and Boston held off several Chicago surges in the fourth quarter as the Celtics defeated the Bulls 126-119. The loss snapped the Bulls' six-game winning streak and their seven-game road-victory string.

Bird's total left him 63 points short of John Havlicek's team record of 2,338 points in one season. The Celtics' last two games are at Atlanta this evening and at Chicago on Sunday.

Spurs 117, Rockets 116
Mike Mitchell's 25-foot jump shot at the buzzer gave San Antonio a 117-116 victory over Houston, the Spurs' first victory in Houston since Jan 25, 1985.

A basket by Frank Brickowski with 49 seconds left gave the Spurs a 115-113 lead. Houston's Allen Leavell's layup tied the score and moments later he hit a free throw to give the Rockets a 116-115 lead with 12 seconds left.

Fay irritated by Briton's Cup plans

WELLINGTON, April 22, (Reuters): The mercantile banker heading New Zealand's challenge for the America's Cup, Michael Fay, expressed surprise today that British contender Peter de Savary planned to use a small yacht that he had expected.

Fay, clearly irritated, said in a statement that de Savary had indicated he would use a 65-foot yacht in the sail-off against the 90-foot mono-bull New Zealand in August to find a challenger to meet Cup holders San Diego Yacht Club. San Diego yesterday officially accepted the challenge by de Savary's Blue Arrow Syndicate and the elimination series against New Zealand, the official challenger.

Fay, who has spent millions of dollars on the yacht New Zealand, said today he had agreed with de Savary as late as last week that they would race in 90-footers.

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McGuigan waves to his supporters after beating Perez. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sutton leads New Orleans golf tourney

NEW ORLEANS, April 22, (Reuters): Hal Sutton fired an error-free seven-under-par 65 yesterday to take the first round lead at the \$750,000 New Orleans Open, the only PGA Tour event in his home state.

Sutton had seven birdies and 11 pars over the 7,080-yard Lakewood Country Club course and held a one-shot lead over Tom Byrum in the chase for the \$135,000 winner's prize.

Sutton took charge with long back-to-back birdie putts of 40 feet and 30 feet on his 10th and 11th holes. But he had to scramble for a par on the final hole to stay ahead of Byrum.

"It was really a solid round and it could have been even lower," said Sutton. "I have a lot of home support here and I don't think I've ever played up to my capabilities in my home state — I'd like to change that."

Carded

Byrum made his charge on the back nine, where he carded six birdies for a six-under-par 30.

Japan's Tommy Nakajima, who has yet to win on the US Tour, led a group of seven players who stood at five-under 67. Lanny Wadkins, Jodie Mudd, Dan Halldorson, John Inman, Mike Blackburn and Brian Mogg were all tied for third place with Nakajima.

"I'm a little surprised that I haven't won over here," said Nakajima, whose round was highlighted by an eagle three on the 540-yard par-five sixth hole.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Swift chess

BRUSSELS, April 22. (AP): Former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union was assured of at least a share of the Swift World Cup chess tournament title when Briton John Nunn drew an adjourned game yesterday.

Soccer friendly

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, April 22. (Reuter): West German captain Klaus Allofs today pulled out of next week's soccer friendly against Switzerland because of a knee injury.

Verona appeal

ZURICH, April 22. (Reuter): The European Football Union (UEFA) today rejected an appeal by Italy's Verona against a one-year ban on defender Silvano Fontolan for drug taking.

Chris Evert

HOUSTON, Texas, April 22. (Reuter): American tennis star Chris Evert on Wednesday said that she would marry former US Olympic skier Andy Mill on July 30 at the polo club in Boca Raton, Florida.

Title fight

TOKYO, April 22. (Reuter): Venezuelan Len Gamet's speed and punching power are likely to be telling weapons in the first defence of his World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum-weight title against Japanese Kenji Yanozawa on Sunday.

Ivan Lendl

WASHINGTON, April 22. (AP): Tennis star Ivan Lendl yesterday won a major battle in his fight to play for the US Olympic team this summer when a house subcommittee voted to give the Czech native immediate US citizenship.

Houston tennis

HOUSTON, Texas, April 22. (Reuter): Fourth seed Zina Garrison overcame a second set concentration lapse in front of her home town fans yesterday to beat South African Dinky van Rensburg 6-2, 4-6 and advance to the quarterfinals of the \$250,000 Houston tennis tournament.

Peter Withe

LONDON, April 22. (Reuter): Former England soccer striker Peter Withe is planning a comeback to help Second Division strugglers Sheffield United in their fight against relegation.

John Robertson

LONDON, April 22. (Reuter): Scotland under-21 international John Robertson joined Newcastle United from Scottish Premier League side Hearts for £700,000 (\$1.32 million) on Wednesday.

Peru's coach

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 22. (Reuter): Tele Santana, Brazil's manager at the 1982 and 1986 World Cup soccer finals, said on Wednesday he was considering an offer to become Peru's head coach.

French squad

PARIS, April 22. (Reuter): Midfield player Philippe Vercruysen has been recalled to the French national soccer squad for the first time for 18 months. He was named on Wednesday in a 16-man party for the friendly against Northern Ireland in Belfast on April 27.

LENDI REACHES MONTE CARLO QUARTERFINALS

Italian outsider stuns Wilander

MONTE CARLO, April 22. (Reuter): Title-holder Mats Wilander was toppled by Italian outsider Claudio Pistolesi but top seed Ivan Lendl reasserted his authority to reach the quarterfinals of the Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Second seed Wilander, who has eroded Lendl's lead at the top of the world rankings, started confidently but ran out of steam and lost his third round clash 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 in the day's first match under the midday sun.

Challenge

Lendl, returning from injury for his first tournament in two months, closed proceedings of the centre court under floodlights, quelling the challenge of abrasive Austrian Horst Skoff 6-3, 7-5.

Lendl, who defeated Wilander to win the title last time he played in the Mediterranean principality in 1985, showed more of his old command and power after his hesitant 7-6, 7-5 start against Swedish qualifier Christian Bergstrom on Wednesday.

But Wilander showed signs of



Noah: fought back for victory

fatigue, hardly surprising after he nearly pulled out of the tournament following an attack of influenza and sinusitis last week. Lendl dropped his service in

the third game but reeled off four games in a row to take charge against Skoff, ranked 62nd in the world. He broke Skoff at the start of

the second set but the Austrian staved off defeat with a service break for 5-5, only to concede an immediate break as Lendl swept on to settle matters on his second match-point.

Skoff's aggressive determination carried him through to the semifinals last year at the expense of seeds Yannick Noah and Andre Gomez.

But French number one Noah and Ecuador's Gomez, seeded fourth and fifth, stayed on course this time, though Noah cut it desperately fine for the second time in 24 hours.

Noah, two points away from defeat by his doubles partner Guy Forget yesterday, found himself needing a service break to save the match against Spanish qualifier Jordi Arrese.

The ebullient Frenchman got it and won 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (7-3). He now finds himself with a last eight date with Davis Cup colleague Henri Leconte, 6-4, 6-3 victor over sixth-seeded Swede Kent Carlsson.

Gomez, 6-4, 6-1 winner over Tarik Benhabiles, next faces another Frenchman, Thierry Tulasne, who scored a nine-sided

6-3, 6-1 win over Czechoslovak Marian Vajda, second round conqueror of third-seeded West German Boris Becker.

Lendl earned a quarterfinal clash with Sweden's Joakim Nystrom, the 1986 Monte Carlo champion, who fought a monumental duel with the Czechoslovak in last year's French Open — one of two Grand Slam tournaments which fell to Lendl in 1987.

Wilander, champion in 1983 and 1987 and runner-up in 1984 and 1985, failed for the first time in six attempts to reach the Monte Carlo semifinals.

Patience

"When I started going against me I started getting tired. I guess I lost my patience a little bit, though he kept playing well throughout the match," he said. "When you get tired on clay, there's no way you can win a match."

Pistolesi, ranked 154th in the world said: "I tried not to think that I had Mats Wilander, number two in the world, in front of me, otherwise I'd have been afraid to come to the net and hit my forehand."



Connors: won 2nd and 3rd sets easily

Connors fights back to overwhelm Davis

TULSA, Oklahoma, April 22. (AP): Top-seed Jimmy Connors bounced back after losing a set to defeat 65th-ranked Scott Davis 5-7, 6-2, 6-0 last night in the 11th bank of Oklahoma Tennis Classic, while Robert Seguso held on after splitting the breakers to beat Mel Purcell in the late match.

Connors and Davis held serve until the 12th game in the first set, when Davis broke serve and went on to win the set.

Swept

Connors, No. 5 in the Association of Tennis Professionals, lost only the third and seventh games in the second set and swept the final set to win the match at the Shadow Mountain Racquet Club in Tulsa.

Connors, 35, of Sanibel Harbour, Florida, and five double-faults in the match that lasted nearly two hours. Fifth-seed Davis, of Bradmore, Florida,

had four.

In the late match, Seguso beat Purcell 6-3, 6-7 (7-2), 7-6 (7-2). Purcell, who replaced second-seed David Pate when Pate dropped out of the tournament yesterday with muscle spasms, won games one, three and four of the first set and held on to win the second set tie breaker.

But Seguso came back after both players held serve in the third set to win the final tie breaker.

Seguso, ranked 84th and seeded seventh in the tournament, had four aces and six double faults in the match. Purcell, ranked 171st and seeded last in the event, had two aces and no double faults.

The two players with the most victories in the two four-man groups will advance to the finals Sunday in the \$80,000 tournament.

Notts restrict Middlesex to 199

LONDON, April 22. (Reuter): Seam bowler Kevin Cooper, who made only six English county championship appearances last season, was the unlikely hero as Nottinghamshire made an impressive start to their title defence at Lord's yesterday.

The champions, keen to show that the departure of all-rounders Richard Hadlee and Clive Rice has not blunted their edge, bundled out Middlesex for 199 in only 67.5 overs, with Cooper taking five for 52.

England all-rounder John Emburey and Roland Butcher rescued Middlesex after they had lost half their side for 46. They put on 211 for the sixth wicket, Butcher making 73 and Emburey 61.

England opener Chris Broad stroked an impressive 68 as Notts replied with 102 for three.

Glamorgan's Matthew Maynard earned the distinction of becoming the first player to score a hundred in the newly introduced programme of four-day championship matches.

He hammered a century off just 139 balls before tea against



Cooper: five for 52

Gloucestershire at Bristol and went on to make 126, including 18 fours.

Then Geoff Holmes took up the assault, scoring an unbeaten 104 out of Glamorgan's 330 for six.

Kent's Mark Benson, who hit a century in his first championship match last season, repeated the feat as he shared a double-century opening stand with Neil



Maynard: first ton

Taylor against Essex at Chelmsford.

Benson made 110 and Taylor 94, their partnership of 210 laying the foundation for Kent's commanding total of 303 for four.

Scores

At Old Trafford: Worcestershire 142 for three in 52 overs (T. Curtis 49, G. Hick 48) v Lancashire.

Roebuck hits out at Botham



Roebuck: slams Botham

LONDON, April 22. (Reuter): Somerset captain Peter Roebuck yesterday accused England cricketer Ian Botham of likening him to Judas when Roebuck supported the sackings of Viv Richards and Joel Garner 18 months ago.

Speaking on BBC television, Roebuck said: "It's no secret that Ian put up Judas posters about me in the dressing room in front of several of the players. It was a very unpleasant thing to do."

The two former team-mates fell out over the English county's decision to replace West Indian Test players Richards and Garner with New Zealander

Martin Crowe. Botham subsequently quit Somerset and joined Worcestershire.

Roebuck said: "Ian is a man who is very warm in friendship, but very ugly in enmity. You do feel this fury of him when you are against him ... and he reacts immediately and spontaneously."

Roebuck said he was aware of Botham's hostility towards him when Worcestershire played in Somerset last year.

"When Ian comes to a place he brings with him the whole operation — the national media and lots of Sunday supporters whom he had every much stirred up against me," added Roebuck.

Eden Gardens damaged by fire

CALCUTTA, April 22. (Reuter): A fire yesterday damaged the 100-year-old Eden Gardens stadium, one of India's foremost cricket grounds and site of the 1987 World Cup final.

A fire brigade spokesman said sparks from a welders torch set off the blaze which raged through the stands of the 90,000-seat stadium in India's largest city. The clubhouse was not damaged, he said.

More than 70 million rupees (\$5.4 million) was spent on the stadium before last November's final of the eight-nation cricket World Cup in which Australia beat England.

Senna clocks fastest lap before crashing

MONZA, Italy, April 22. (AP): Brazilian driver Ayrton Senna clocked the fastest lap before crashing his McLaren car at the Lesmo bend during the third and last day of test runs by several formula-one teams at the Monza autodrome yesterday.

Senna escaped the accident unhurt but his racer, powered by a Japanese-made Honda engine, was badly damaged.

"I did not suffer any injury but I was lucky because I was running at full speed. I probably ran into an oil spot and I lost control of the car which flipped off against the guardrail," Senna explained as he returned to the pits.

His McLaren, which was later towed to the paddocks, showed a badly damaged front and a crushed right wheel.

Ahead of the accident Senna, who joined McLaren this season, had turned the lap in 1:28.94 minutes, the fastest time set by any driver in the three days of the trials set up by the F-1 teams in preparation for the GP of San Marino, the second event of the 1988 world championship scheduled in Imola on May 1.

Drivers

Senna, who improved by more than three seconds from the previous day, edged the two drivers of the home team Ferrari — Austrian Gerhard Berger and Italy's Michele Alboreto.

Berger was timed in 1:29.07 minutes — 0.35 faster than Wednesday — while Alboreto had 1:29.35.

Alboreto had spun off the track during the morning tests, without damaging his Ferrari. He also blamed an oil spot for the accident.

World champion Nelson Piquet, who replaced Senna at Lotus, clocked the fourth fastest time of the day, in 1:30.70 minutes, before blowing up the Honda engine of his racer.

The fastest times were clocked by teams using turbocharged engines, which are expected to dominate the San Marino GP.

Pakistan hope to win series against W. Indies

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 22. (Reuter): Pakistan entered the third and final cricket Test against the West Indies in Barbados today hoping to be the first team since the Australians in 1973 to beat the home side in a series on their own soil.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan declared yesterday that his side would not play for a draw. "We go into the last Test with a positive attitude and very good morale," he said.

With Pakistan 1-0 up in the series, Imran is already the first captain not to have lost a rubber in the Caribbean since England's Mike Denness in 1974.

But the wicket at Kensington Oval is the fastest and bounciest in the Caribbean, and the West Indies are better equipped to take advantage of it.

Their four-strong pace attack is expected to be strengthened by the return of Patrick Patterson, on his day is the fastest bowler in the world.

Curtley Ambrose was the least impressive of the bowlers in the drawn Test at Port of Spain and is likely to make way for Patterson, back after a knee injury.

Imran is nevertheless a great threat to the West Indies batsmen, having taken 20 wickets in the series to date and having dismissed every West Indian, except Viv Richards and Malcolm Marshall, at least once.

After the second Test he declared: "I am feeling very confident about my bowling. I felt I bowled better in Port of Spain



Imran: confident of his bowling

than in Georgetown despite taking fewer wickets.

Imran, who bowled a remarkable 61.3 overs in the second Test, said an extra seamer would play in Bridgetown. Ijaz Faqih

would almost certainly be replaced by Salim Jaffer, he said.

Wasim Akram, however, will again have to pass a late fitness test after aggravating his thigh strain in Port of Spain. If he is

unfit Zakir Khan is likely to play. Pakistan — Imran Khan (captain), Mudassar Nazar, Rameez Raja, Shoaib Mohammed, Javed Miandad, Salik Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Salim Yousuf, Wasim Akram, Abdul Qadir, Salim Jaffer.

Meanwhile uncapped Keith Arthurton, a left-handed batsman from Nevis, has been named in a squad of 13 by West Indies.

Arthurton is included in the Test party at the expense of opener Phil Simmons.

A consistently heavy scorer during the recent regional Red Stripe tournament, Arthurton also made two centuries against the Pakistanis — for a West Indies Board President's XI and a West Indian under-23 side.

West Indies 13: Viv Richards, Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Gus Logie, Richie Richardson, Keith Arthurton, Carl Hooper, Jeff Dujon, Malcolm Marshall, Courtney Walsh, Winston Benjamin, Curtley Ambrose, Patrick Patterson.

Arthurton and fast bowler Ian Bishop, who have performed impressively in the current Caribbean season, are rewarded with places in West Indies touring team to England.

They are among a trio of uncapped players completed by reserve wicketkeeper David Williams who were chosen in a party of 17 by the West Indian selectors on Wednesday for the tour starting on May 7.

The rest of captain Viv Richards' party consists essen-

tially of players who were involved in the World Cup late last year and the subsequent tour of India, and the home Test series against Pakistan which ends next week.

West Indies have again put the emphasis on their attack on fast bowling, with Marshall spearheading a six-strong pace battery. Off-spinner Roger Harper is the only specialist slow bowler included.

Bishop, a 19-year-old Trinidadian, headed the overall Red Stripe bowling averages with 19 wickets at an average of 13.68 performing with hostility both in that competition and in matches against the touring Pakistanis.

Harper, who is also an immensely effective batsman who has not consistently produced his best form in his 20 Tests, is picked despite being unable to regain his place in the Test side since suffering injury during the tour of India.

Three of Marshall's fellow pacemen — Courtney Walsh, Patterson and Winston Benjamin — are familiar figures on the county circuit, while Ambrose makes his first tour after a stunning emergence.

Ambrose, an Antiguan, captured a domestic record of 35 wickets in the Red Stripe tournament and produced several telling spells to help West Indies win the limited overs series against Pakistan 5-0.

West Indies' itinerary includes five Tests and three one-day internationals against England.



Shahbir (centre) receives the trophy from Hafiz Sultan.

Royals edge Millat for title

ROYALS Cricket Club beat Quaid-e-Millat by four wickets to clinch the Morning Star Trophy at the Airport grounds recently.

Millat won the toss and elected to bat. Only Dawood 56 and Ishaq 28 batted well as Millat were all out for 129. Razzaq was the main wicket-taker with four scalps while Rashid got three.

Royals opened their innings through Bahar and skipper

Shahbir and both of them took the score to 88 before the latter was out for 34. Razzaq scored a quick 14 before he was also out. There was a mini-collapse in which Royals lost four quick wickets but Bahar, with 49, took his team quite near the Millat total before he was out.

Jamil took two wickets for Millat. The prizes were presented to the winners and runners-up by Hafiz Sultan.

Gardner hopes for victory at Spanish GP

JARAMA, Spain, April 22. (Reuter): World 500cc motorcycle champion Wayne Gardner, still chasing his first race win of the season, is hoping that three will prove a lucky number in Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix.

The Australian has won the event for the last two years. The 1986 race gave him his first victory in a world championship 500cc event.

Sunday's race is the third round of this year's championship and Honda rider Gardner needs a win, after finishing second in the first two of the 16 events, if he is to fight off American Eddie Lawson's challenge.

Currently

Lawson is battling hard to recover the crown he held in 1986 and 1984 and is currently the overall leader after winning the US event in Monterey two weeks ago and coming third in the opening event in Japan.

Lawson won the last race staged on the Jarama circuit near Madrid — the Portuguese Grand Prix in September — but finished a disappointing third overall last season when his Yamaha was dogged with mechanical problems.